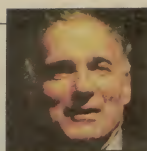


District elections are here!
Meet the supe candidates who
completed our questionnaire.
starts on page 14

Spoiler in the presidential race
Dems worried that Ralph Nader
might tip the election to Bush.
page 9



Zamora toons
'The Real World' according
to cartoonist Judd Winick.
see Arts section



BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 30 • No. 43 • 26 October 2000

Serving the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender communities since 1971

District 3's Wong, Asian and gay

by Terry Beswick

Other than such universal concerns as access to health care, affordable housing, and decent public transportation, the LGBT and Asian American communities of San Francisco share at least two other characteristics.

For one, there's the sizable and potentially powerful population of queer men and women of Asian descent.

For another, there is Lawrence Wong.

As the only openly gay Asian American among 87 San Franciscans hoping to secure one of the 11 hotly-contested district seats on the Board of Supervisors this year, the former president of the Community College Board says he wants to serve as a bridge between the two communities he was born to, galvanizing the twin political powerhouses as supervisor from District 3.

"The issues that many of the candidates talk about are Balkanization and NIMBY-ism," said Wong, speaking with the *Bay Area Reporter* last

page 29 ►



Lawrence Wong

Clift Hotel accused of transgender discrimination

High-profile drag queen 'won't let this rest' by Katie Szymanski

It's cool and hip when Dennis Rodman goes around in drag, but when those who aren't as famous don a dress at an upscale San Francisco hotel, it's grounds for expulsion.

That was the hard-learned lesson for James Davis – otherwise known as Elaine Lancaster – when he attempted to check in at the Clift Hotel early last Sunday morning. Davis was in town to host the Exotic Erotic Ball last Saturday, October 21 with Rodman, an old friend from the nightclubbing days with RuPaul. Rodman had offered Davis the second room in his two-bedroom suite at the Clift, but when Rodman learned he only had one bedroom, Davis decided to get his own.

That's when a hotel employee stepped in to tell him, "Uh-uh," according to Davis. "He said, 'Change your clothes and come back ... We're not renting you a room like that. This is not that kind of hotel.'"

The employee also allegedly told Davis that "two girls with their butts hanging out just walked through here, and this is an upscale hotel," apparently referring to two women who entered with Rodman.

Davis replied, "What does that have to do with me?"

Nevertheless, Davis relented, and went to another friend's room to shower and become a man again. From there, he called downstairs from his cell phone and spoke with a different staff member, who verified that rooms were available.

"I asked the person if he wanted my credit card to reserve the room, and he said, 'Oh no sir, we have plenty of rooms, just come in,'" said Davis.



Bad boy Dennis Rodman with James Davis, aka Elaine Lancaster.

But once downstairs, Davis encountered the same staff member who had denied him a room, and he was told that suddenly, there were no rooms available.

Davis left with his pride and a verbal warning to the staff:

"I said, 'You can get away with this in 42 other states, but not here,'" referring to California's transgender-inclusive non-discrimination law. Davis immediately filed a complaint with the San Francisco Human Rights Commission, and is considering legal action.

"You know, I wasn't even a sleazy drag queen," Davis told the *Bay Area Reporter*. "I put together a very elegant character."

Davis, who resides in Miami Beach, is a

frequent guest of that city's mayor and often appears on the cover of high society magazines. He is staying in San Francisco until this matter is resolved because he realizes he is in a position to fight for others who face similar discrimination.

"It's the principle. Transgenders – and that includes drag queens – are protected by law," said Davis, who lives full time as a man. "As long as something comes out of this – even awareness – I won't let this rest."

A statement from Tim McEneny, general manager of the Clift Hotel, said the whole incident was a misunderstanding, and that Davis was not given a room because he did

page 29 ►

Get those costumes ready!

All your tricks and treats will inevitably be heading to the Castro (like these partygoers at last year's event) for this year's world-famous Halloween street party, an unofficial yet highly-sponsored event known for its wild energy. The festivities usually begin at 8 p.m. on Halloween night (Tuesday, October 31), and the streets between 18th and Castro will be closed by early evening. For more information, see story, page 3.



Marc Geller

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Propositions explained on 6.

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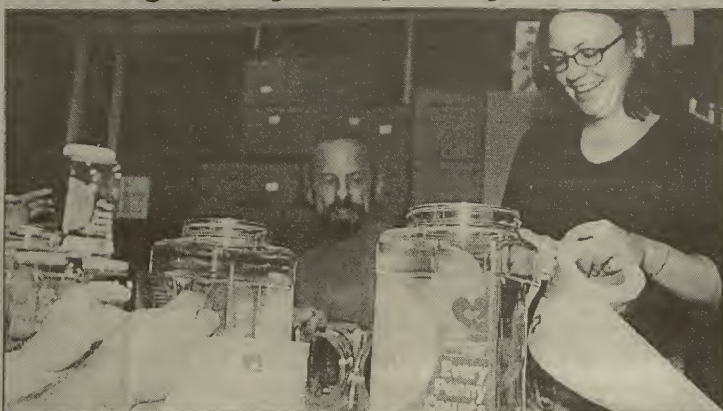
CAROLE MIGDEN

OUR ASSEMBLYWOMAN



PHOTO BY ANA ELLY ASSEMBLYWOMAN CAROLE MIGDEN, © 10/20/00

Getting ready for penny drive



Glenon Sutter, left, and Toni Hurley help ready hundreds of penny jars to distribute to schools and businesses throughout the Bay Area next month for the AIDS Emergency Fund's annual "Every Penny Counts" campaign that culminates on December 1, World AIDS Day. AEF organizers said that this year's goal is 5 million pennies (\$50,000). Local students begin next week and spend most of November collecting pennies. AEF provides direct emergency financial assistance to people living with HIV/AIDS. For more information on the campaign, call (415) 558-6985.

Web of controversy surrounds AOL donation

by Bob Roehr

AOL chief donates \$8 million to church that funds ex-gay ministry," read the headline on an October 18 story by the on-line service Gay.com. Within days, TheAdvocate.com, the Human Rights Campaign, columnist Michelangelo Signorile, and others were piling on.

The one thing that none of these players were disclosing were their own vested interests in stoking the controversy.

The thread of this story began with an October 18 article in the

Fort Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel that announced a gift of \$8.35 million from Jean Case, wife of America Online Chairman Steve Case, to Westminster Academy. She had attended the private high school, graduating in 1978. The bulk of the money would go toward building a new high school campus, while the remainder would fund a scholarship program.

The abbreviated Gay.com article emphasized that Westminster was founded by the Reverend D. James Kennedy, pastor of the Coral Ridge Presbyterian Church, and is affiliated with the church. Kennedy is a leading anti-gay television preacher whose matrix of organizations supports "ex-gay" ministries and the controversial but ineffective "Truth in Love" advertising campaign claiming that gays can change their sexual orientation through Jesus. The article insinuated that some of the money would be used to promote these activities.

The following day, HRC sent a letter to AOL asking them to reconsider the donation. "We find it unfathomable how your family could reward a school inexorably linked to teachings that say gay and lesbian Americans are not worthy of dignity, respect, and full citizenship," wrote Executive Director Elizabeth Birch.

Later that afternoon, Jean Case responded with a statement saying that the gift was "specifically directed to benefit children," a cause the Cases regularly support. Steve Case earlier had given \$10 million to the private high school that he attended while growing up in Hawaii.

"The gift was not given to benefit Coral Ridge Presbyterian Church or its programs," Jean Case insisted. "In no way was it intended to send a message of intolerance. Steve and I strongly oppose discrimination in any form."

But HRC would have none of it. Spokesman Wayne Besen said, "It is not a gift toward education, but one toward indoctrination." He said the Cases were "funding an assembly line of bigots."

Michelangelo Signorile chimed in with his Gay.com column on

October 23. He lambasted the Cases for attending a fundamentalist church in McLean, Virginia, and for donations their foundation made to the church. He noted that former independent prosecutor Kenneth Starr and conservative members of Congress attend the same church.

Among the web of sins that Signorile wove were revelations that the Cases had contributed to the political campaigns of John McCain and George Bush, but no Democrats. He could not find record of personal or foundation contributions to gay organizations and he dismissed corporate sponsorship of gay events as part of doing business.

Other voices

Deacon Maccubbin is founder and co-owner of Lambda Rising, which many consider to be the premier gay bookstore in the world. He also was midwife to the huge gay and lesbian community on AOL.

He called the Cases' donation "a damned foolish move to make because it sends a very inaccurate message. There is no way to interpret it as other than something that is harmful to the gay and lesbian community. It tarnishes their good name."

But "I never detected a homophobic bone in his body," Maccubbin said of Steve Case. His extensive series of contacts with Case dates from the late 1980s.

Maccubbin said that whenever there was a problem and the gay community was upset with AOL, he would drive out and have lunch with Case. "Steve's reaction was always, 'Tell me about it,' and we would tell him about it. His response generally was, 'You know, that makes sense.' And within a week or two it was changed."

Signorile fumed that the Cases are "going to have to immediately and thoroughly explain their donations ... and demonstrate just how much they value the gay community as loyal customers." He all but threatened that without it, Signorile and other gays would flee AOL, deserting their favorite

page 10 ►

COMMUNITY NEWS

Halloween happenings in San Francisco

by Katie Szymanski

Halloween in San Francisco has become a world-renowned event, with both the "official" party at downtown's Civic Center and the "unofficial" yet even more wild street festivities in the Castro.

This year, as always, costumed revelers will hit the town this Tuesday, October 31, with both venues, as well as private and less-crowded celebrations, promising a full evening of ghoulish delight.

Castro partiers usually start crowding the neighborhood by 8 p.m., although extra safety and security officers will begin their shifts as much as two hours earlier. While "unofficial," the city heavily plans for the annual party, and the streets between 18th and Castro will be closed, which means public transportation is a necessity. But don't count on getting off at the Castro

Street stops, as those tracks, too, will most likely be closed for safety reasons. Exit the streetcars at Church Street and walk up the hill to enjoy one of the craziest happenings the city sees all year.

The free celebration came together through "a real team effort" this year, according to Merchants of Upper Market and Castro President Patrick Batt, who noted that through donations, the neighborhood's festivities will have additional amenities not previously enjoyed.

The icing on the cake? Thirty four-count 'em-portable toilets for the public, courtesy of local businesses who shelled out the cash at \$100 a potty.

Twenty safety officers will be hired and assigned in pockets between 19th and Market streets; there are still some shifts available and interested people should call (415) 679-1827. Additionally, many merchants will be equipped

with walkie-talkies to better serve the injured or out of control. The safety command center will be located at 2370 Market Street, at a space donated by *Frontiers* magazine. Other donors to the party include the Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services, the Castro Street Fair, MUMC, and Grants for the Arts.

The Castro party is a free-for-all, with a reputation that attracts many away from what has come to be known as the city's "official" celebration. But for those who enjoy a little order and planned entertainment, this year's Civic Center party is nothing to sneeze at.

The official party begins at 7 p.m. at the Civic Center Plaza, and organizers from the Mission Economic Cultural Association encourage everyone to "dress as naughty as you like."

Various entertainment stages will feature performances by Evelyn "Champagne" King, Leslie

Paula, Kool Katz, Sugar Spun, As Pernas Com Alma, Brown Magic Mad III, and Phame; retro deejay spinning by Page Hodel, Latin spinning by DJ Canejo; a drag show; a costume contest; and more. The evening climaxes with a laser light show.

Admission to the Civic Center party is \$5 and the event lasts through 12:30 a.m. Public transportation is advised. For more information, call (415) 826-1401.

There is no one right way to spend Halloween, although many

attest to the benefits of attending everything that is offered and winding up on the corner with no idea who you are or where you've been. Remember in the event of an emergency, cell phones and pay phones will require you to be semi-coherent, as 911 calls cannot trace your location if you are not calling from your residential home. If you are planning on enjoying some "substance" with your evening, try to stay with a group, drink lots of water, and always be aware of your surroundings. ▼

Bodfish neighbors want land kept open

by Ed Walsh

The public park being planned on the East Bay property of transgender murder victim Emmon Bodfish will likely be as little-known as the very reclusive Bodfish himself.

Neighbors near Bodfish's seven-acre Orinda estate turned out for an October 3 City Council meeting to voice their opinions and questions about the property's use. Many were concerned about the possibility of the estate being turned into a park that would attract a lot of visitors to the quiet neighborhood. Most said they would like to see the bulk of the land kept as open space.

Bodfish willed his Orinda home to the city with the provision it be turned into a public park or wildlife sanctuary. The rustic estate has been unoccupied since he was found beaten to death in his home on June 30, 1999.

Bodfish's estate executor, Garrett Riegg, told the *Bay Area Reporter* that he may work out an arrangement with the city to temporarily rent Bodfish's house and use those proceeds to eventually tear down the house and commit the entire property, including the land the house sits on, into a park.

Orinda city officials have also considered dedicating a public garden in Bodfish's memory near the city's new library. At the meeting, one of Bodfish's friends, Stacey Weinberger, spoke out

against that proposal. Weinberger said Bodfish's memory would be better honored by keeping his property as open space so nature could be preserved.

City officials said whatever they decide will be in keeping with Bodfish's wishes.

"The city is committed to making sure the Bodfish property is kept as open space or a public park," Orinda City Manager Bill Lindsay told the *B.A.R.* this week.

Bodfish left a total estate of \$7.6 million, including money from the estate of his late mother which he controlled, according to Riegg.

Bodfish left his money to a variety of charities and feminist organizations.

His favorite charity, the Hysterectomy Educational Resources and Services Foundation, will get more than \$1 million.

Riegg said the Bodfish estate will pay \$626,000 in federal income tax alone. The estate will also have to pay thousands of dollars in state taxes to California and to Arizona, where Bodfish owned a Pizza Hut franchise.

Bodfish, 56, was born a woman but for the past 20 years had presented himself to most outsiders as a man.

Bodfish's son, Max Wills, 33, committed suicide in a Santa Monica hotel room just hours after being told by phone that his mother was dead. Police say they don't consider him a suspect because there is no physical evidence

connecting him to the crime but they say they may never be able to rule him out.

Wills's father, Burl Wiles, may inherit about \$100,000 from the estate.

Riegg said Wiles's share will likely be decided in court next month and that Wiles planned to spend the money to help charities that were important to his son.

Bodfish's Orinda neighbors have helped keep up his house since the murder, according to Riegg. They recently extensively trimmed back brush around the house to cut down on the fire danger. ▼

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SUPERVISOR



First HIV/hep C prison speak-out November 2

by Katie Szymanski

The first speak-out on HIV and hepatitis C in prison, "A Standard of Care that is Killing Prisoners," will be held on Thursday, November 2, at St. Paulus Church, 930 Gough Street (between Turk and Eddy) in San Francisco.

Sponsored by the HIV in Prison Committee of California Prison Focus, the evening begins at 6:30 p.m. and will include testimony from former prisoners living with HIV and hepatitis C, and statements from prisoner advocates and community activists

concerned about the spread of these two epidemics and lack of care provided to the affected population.

Topics to be discussed include the alarming rate at which prisoners are co-infected with HIV and hep C (up to 85 percent); a follow up to the BCL Laboratories scandal (where a contracted facility admitted to faking HIV test results for prisoners); and the lack of education and treatment available to those inside.

Anyone interested in the discussion and/or joining efforts to combat medical abuse and neglect is welcome to attend. The event is free. ▼

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Another setback for Rosenkrantz

by Ed Walsh

An appeals court handed gay prisoner Robert Rosenkrantz another setback last Friday, October 20 when it silenced a Superior Court judge who had strongly ruled in his favor.

"Basically, they told Judge Stoltz to cool her jets until [Governor] Davis decides this thing," Assistant Secretary of the Youth and Adult Correctional Agency, Steve Green, told the *Bay Area Reporter*.

Davis has until this Saturday, October 28, to decide whether to block Rosenkrantz's parole.

Rosenkrantz's lawyer, Rowan Klein, successfully got Los Angeles County Superior Court Judge Kathryn Stoltz to order the Board of Prison Terms to give him an itemized list of all the information it submitted to Davis on the case. Friday's ruling by the 2nd District Court of Appeals canceled that order and forbid Stoltz from issuing any other orders in the case until Davis makes his decision.

Green said Davis would likely make a decision before Saturday's deadline. Few expect Davis to approve parole, but if he simply does nothing, Rosenkrantz will be freed.

Rosenkrantz was convicted of second-degree murder for shoot-

ing his former schoolmate, Steve Redman, in 1985. Redman, along with Rosenkrantz's younger brother, burst into a high school graduation party hosted by Rosenkrantz yelling "faggots." Redman broke Rosenkrantz's nose with a flashlight and later outed him to his father.

A week later, Rosenkrantz confronted Redman with an Uzi outside Redman's home. According to Rosenkrantz's testimony, he threatened to shoot up Redman's car and demanded Redman come with him to his parents' house to take back his outing. The two argued and Rosenkrantz opened fire, shooting Redman 10 times.

Rosenkrantz's parole fight has been tied up in the courts for two years.

Judge Stoltz ordered him released on September 14 but the 2nd District Court of Appeals granted a temporary stay of release the next day, just seconds before Rosenkrantz would have walked out of prison.

Stoltz previously ruled that the parole board was biased against Rosenkrantz and had unfairly denied him parole. The parole board

challenged Stoltz's ruling but the Appeals Court strongly rebuked the board and affirmed the ruling. The California Supreme Court refused to hear the case and let Stoltz's ruling stand.

Davis first blocked Rosenkrantz's parole last year and he is under new pressure to block it again.

Last Friday, Los Angeles County Sheriff Lee Baca held a press conference to urge that Davis halt Rosenkrantz's parole. The Doris Tate Crime Victims Bureau also recently launched a letter writing campaign to Davis urging that he keep Rosenkrantz locked up.

Predictably, the group's Web site makes no mention of the many mitigating factors the jury considered in deciding on a second-degree rather than a first-degree murder conviction. No mention is made of Redman's physical attack on Rosenkrantz.

The Web site also announced an October 27 Crime Victims Foundation conference in San Diego featuring a presentation on the Rosenkrantz case by Larry Diamond, the prosecutor who tried the case in 1985. ▼

'Queerific' for Pride 2001

by Cynthia Laird

The general members of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Pride Celebration Committee Inc. have chosen "Queerific" as the theme for next year's San Francisco Pride celebration.

At their most recent meeting earlier this month, the members voted overwhelmingly in favor of a theme that sets a bold, contemporary tone for the first Pride event of the new millennium, officials said.

"It's fun, it's festive!" said Pride President Cecilia Chung. "Our community is reclaiming the power to define who we are and who we love."

San Francisco has long been at the cutting edge of LGBT politics and culture and the theme, "Queerific," is in that tradition. At the same time, the title of the event — San Francisco Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Pride Parade and Celebration — acknowledges the many components of the community and makes them visible in the official name of the event. "Queerific," while undoubtedly a political message, is also a clarion call for celebration and typifies the new spirit of energy in the communi-

ty, officials said.

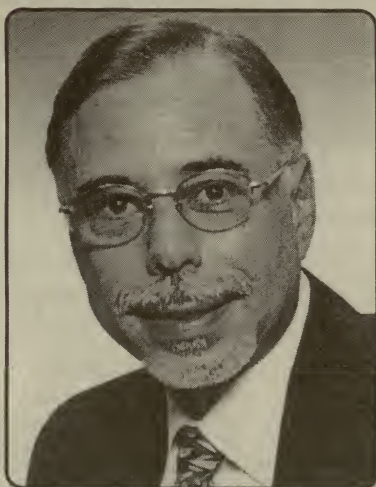
The last and only time the word "queer" was used in connection with the theme was in 1993 when the Pride theme was "Year of the Queer." At that time, use of the word was controversial, Pride Committee Executive Director Teddy Witherington noted. Today, "queer" has become common parlance within much of the LGBT community.

Witherington said that according to the Pride Committee's audience survey of 1,066 people conducted at this year's event, most said that they were comfortable with its usage. When the question, "How do you feel about the word 'queer' to describe our community?" was asked, the results were: very comfortable, 36.3 percent; comfortable, 24.7 percent; neutral, 25.3 percent; uncomfortable, 9.6 percent; and very uncomfortable, 4.1 percent.

Now that the theme has been selected, Witherington said that the board has announced a public competition for the 2001 event logo with a \$500 prize for the winner. Anyone interested in entering the logo contest should contact the Pride office at (415) 864-0831 or log onto the committee's Web site at www.sfpide.org for details.

Next year's Pride festivities take place June 23-24. ▼

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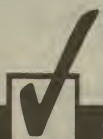


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COMMUNITY NEWS

Taxing times for treasurer

by Cynthia Laird

City Treasurer Susan Leal wants property owners to know that if they have not yet received their property tax bill, they should call her office right away.

At a City Hall news conference last Thursday, October 19, Leal said that problems with the Assessor's office have resulted in some inaccurate property tax bills – or in some cases, perhaps no bills at all for city property owners. The first installment of property tax payments is due December 11.

"Due to an assessor deed backlog and a new computer system in the Assessor's office, some property owners may not receive bills – while others may find that their bills omit the tax-saving homeowner's exemption," Leal stated. More than 180,000 property tax bills were mailed out last week, she added.

Leal emphasized that her office is obligated by state law to send the information on the tax rolls that are compiled by the Assessor's office. As a result, she noted that if a property has recently changed ownership, the new owners may not have received the bill, because



Treasurer Susan Leal

it has not yet been entered in the Assessor's office. Additionally, if someone has owned a home since January 1 and that is their principal place of residence, they are eligible to receive a reduction of up to \$7,000 of that dwelling's taxable value. Once you file a homeowner's exemption claim with the assessor and receive the exemption, it is not necessary to file each year as long as the person continues to own and occupy the residence on which the exemption is claimed.

Because the Assessor's office has launched a new computer system, Leal cautioned owners to

check and see that their homeowner's exemption has been included.

"We want to be proactive," Leal said at the news conference. "We don't believe we created this problem, but we want to be proactive. We're working very hard with the mayor's office and the Controller's office is working with the Assessor's office."

If property owners have not received a bill, people should call the Treasurer's office at (415) 554-4400 or come to Room 140 of City Hall during business hours Monday through Friday for assistance in obtaining their bill. People can also use the city's new online services. The Web site, <http://cityservices.sfgov.org>, allows customers to immediately access their property tax bills, and starting November 1, to make payment over the Internet.

Leal also reminded business taxpayers that their annual registration fees are due by 5 p.m. this Tuesday, October 31 in order to renew business registration for 2001. Business taxpayers can use the Internet site to renew. "We encourage you to use the online registration program – it is quick, easy, and secure," Leal said. ▼

Workshops challenge two-gender system

by Katie Szymanski

San Francisco, ever the mecca for expanding the definitions of identities, once again welcomes "Genderblast," a daylong series of workshops for trans, gender-queer, and gender-questioning youth next Saturday, November 4.

The second Genderblast, sponsored by the Harvey Milk Institute and the Youth Gender Project, takes place from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Harvey Milk Civil Rights Academy at Collingwood and 19th streets. The free event features 15 workshops, including a panel discussion for transgender service providers; anti-racism training for trans youth; a forum on the femme identity; information on medical issues and mental health; and education about one's rights when it comes to dealing with police. Presenters include people from all ranges of the gender spectrum and are predominately youth, repre-

sented by Youth Gender Project, Lavender Youth Recreation and Information Center, Asian Pacific Islander Wellness Center, the Pacific Center, Proyecto Contra SIDA Por Vida, Health Initiatives for Youth, Tenderloin AIDS Resource Center, Gay-Straight Alliance Network, National Center for Lesbian Rights, and other groups.

As gender evolves, Genderblast provides a space for people often left out of both traditional gay and trans circles who do not neatly fit into categories. The day helps to build coalitions, inform people across generations, and challenge assumptions about gender and identity.

Genderblast 2 is made possible by the Horizons Foundation, the 3rd Wave Foundation, the Outfund at the Funding Exchange, the San Francisco Foundation, and the Vanguard Public Foundation. The event is American Sign Language interpreted and accessible. It is open to everyone of all ages and genders.

For more information, contact

the Youth Gender project at (510) 665-9234 or the Harvey Milk Institute at (415) 552-7200, www.harveymilk.org. Pre-registration for Genderblast is preferred, but not required. ▼

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Propositions explained

SAN FRANCISCO PROPOSITIONS

Proposition A Vote YES
Branch Library Bonds

This is an expensive issue, but something we think is doable. The branch libraries are in bad shape and many are actually unsafe; most should be seismically upgraded and should be brought up to date. The facilities are sadly lacking in modern amenities like computers and other research equipment. The bond issue does not address staffing or supply needs, but we are assured there is sufficient money in the budget for these matters. The branch libraries are a great resource for neighborhood seniors and children, we must fix them up to make them more habitable for all our citizens. Vote YES on Prop. A.

Proposition B Vote YES
District Aide

The Board of Supervisors will be chosen by district elections this year and it makes good sense to retain the third aide. With the overwhelming amount of work it takes to run the City and County of San Francisco, it is necessary to keep the third aide in order to handle problems in the individual districts. The aide would be an invaluable help to each supervisor in managing their districts and the general business of the city. Let's give supervisors adequate help to do a more efficient job for the citizens of the city as well as their districts. Vote YES on Prop. B.

Proposition C Vote YES
City Workers Retirement Benefits

San Francisco is currently among the lowest paying counties in the state when it comes to offering health benefits to its employees. Consequently, we have trouble maintaining many categories of employees, i.e., nurses, doctors, and other health care workers. There are other groups of employees as well who accept jobs in other cities whose benefits are better. The cap on health benefits dates back to 1976. It would not cost the city any new taxes for at least 15 years. We have a current surplus of \$2.4 billion in the state retirement fund. The proposition doesn't ask for more, it simply asks for parity. Vote to upgrade city services at no cost to the taxpayers. Vote YES on Prop. C.

Proposition D Vote YES
Children's Fund

From all reports, the fund has worked well for the last 10 years, so renewing it for another 15 years makes sense. We do not agree with the increase in funding for it; but it's too late to change the wording of the proposition. Vote YES on Prop. D.

Proposition E Vote YES
City Retiree Health Benefits

Again, this is a fair measure for retired city employees. It would cover all of those not covered by memorandums of understanding, bargained for by organized labor. Many retirees suffer from inadequate health care coverage. The plan also covers one dependent, either a spouse or domestic partner; in the case of the latter, only 50 percent of the cost is covered, the difference is paid by the retiree. In this time of economic prosperity, it is only fair to share the wealth. Vote YES on Prop. E.

Proposition F Vote NO
Closure of JFK Drive

Golden Gate Park is already closed on Sundays and other city holidays – this is enough. We must stop closing existing streets and parks to traffic so only a few can enjoy them. Vote NO on Prop. F.

Proposition G Vote YES
Closure of JFK Drive With Limits

This is a more sensible approach to the street closure issue. It would not go into effect until the underground parking facilities are completed. Thereafter, tests and trials will be held to determine if the additional day of closure would work. Vote YES on G.

Proposition H NO RECOMMENDATION
Landlord/Renters Costs

Beware of this proposition. Rent control

in San Francisco is already out of hand. This could even make matters worse. It really is a much more complicated proposition than it seems to be. It would also erode the power of the Rent Control Board.

Proposition I Vote YES
Business Tax Revision

As it is, new businesses pay a tax on corporate gross earnings or payrolls, whichever is the higher figure. Most small businesses wind up paying payroll taxes. Large corporations usually pay taxes on gross earnings. This revision would raise the cap on payroll taxes from 1.5 percent to 1.7 percent and rescind the business tax. The revenue to the city would remain pretty much the same. Opponents say that wage earners will pay the tax; this is not true, as it will be businesses only that pay the tax. Why is it on the ballot? Because attorneys for large corporations are trying to find a loophole to collect back over \$800 million they have already paid. Let everyone pay their fair share. Vote YES on Prop. I.

Proposition J Vote YES
City Contractor Contributions

Your yes vote means that you want to ban city officials from accepting gifts or campaign contributions from a person or group to whom the official has already approved granting a contract or special benefit. Vote YES on Prop. J.

Proposition K Vote YES
Office Development Controls

Of the two competing initiatives on this ballot, Prop. K and Prop. L, this is the least restrictive one. We find the vast bans on building in certain areas of the city too restrictive, as in areas like parts of the Mission, South of Market, and Russian Hill districts as defined in Prop. L. If we don't build sufficient office or other small business spaces, we won't have enough jobs for our citizens. As for affordable housing, that problem could be addressed by redefining the city rent control laws. No one wants to build housing and be forced into rent control units. High rises can't be built since there are building height restrictions as well as limits on apartment sizes. Trying to remain a small town with small neighborhoods would work if we had unlimited growing room; we don't. We claim to be a world-class city, but we smother that image with narrow-minded, small-town thinking and bickering. Vote YES on K and NO on L. Let's grow up.

Proposition L Vote NO
Office development/
Live-Work ControlsProposition M Vote NO
Taxicab Permits

Don't be fooled by this proposition; it's the same old scam being played out by the big taxi companies of this city. This proposition won't put more cabs on the streets and it won't grant permits to more individual drivers; it's only going to put more money into the pockets of the big taxi companies. Cab drivers won't have health and welfare benefits. Just look at the undersigned sponsors of the pro-ballot arguments in favor of this proposition – it's the big taxi companies. We urge you to read the paid anti-Proposition M arguments by senior groups, neighborhood groups, and individual drivers. We strongly urge a NO vote on Prop. M.

Proposition N Vote NO
Controls on Rental Conversions

The current method of conversion expires on December 31, 2000. This new proposition would redefine the method of converting units. It would make it very difficult for tenants in two- or four-unit buildings to buy their units and own the building. This is extremely bad news for gay couples or other young married couples who have a chance to buy their own homes or properties. The current law may be extended or even modified by the Board of Supervisors. Let's not change a system that is working fine already. Only 200 units per year selected by lottery are allowed. The proponents of this new proposition have

even added a caveat to this ordinance: if its exclusive occupancy is struck down by the courts, the annual cap on conversions would change from 200 to 0. Either way, they can't lose. Vote NO on N.

Proposition O Vote NO
Public Campaign Finance

We don't believe that the time has come to publicly finance political races in this city. We also don't like the addition to the measure that says that any voter may file a lawsuit to enforce the campaign law. Just what we don't need, more lawsuits. Vote NO on Prop. O.

Proposition P Vote YES
Hunters Point Clean-up

After many years of neglect, the Navy is getting ready to turn over their former base to the city. This proposition urges the mayor and the Board of Supervisors not to accept the property until it is basically free of all pollution and other toxic waste. The Navy is balking at this proposal but we think it's only proper that they clean up their own mess. Vote YES on Prop. P.

Proposition Q Vote YES
Pedestrian Safety Fund

It's about time we try to help our poor pedestrians. There are more cars running red lights, more bicyclists on the road, and an increasing amount of accidents and traffic-related deaths. Vote YES on Prop. Q.

Proposition R Vote NO
Pier 45

This is a nonbinding ballot proposition that might cost us more money in litigation fees than it is worth. The city already has a signed contract with a developer. Vote NO on Prop. R.

STATE PROPOSITIONS

Proposition 32 Vote YES
Veterans Bond Act of 2000

This is a \$500,000 bond act to make loans to veterans to purchase homes and/or farms. The bonds and the debt interest they incur are paid back by the veterans as mortgage payments. There is no cost to the taxpayers. Vote YES on Prop. 32.

Proposition 33 Vote YES
Legislation, Participation in
Public Employees Retirement
System (PERS)

At this time, there would be no costs associated with enrolling legislators in the PERS system. The fund is over-funded due to excellent management and a booming economy. Not all of our legislators are rich, and with term limits imposed, we think it's only fair to allow them to join in the PERS program. Vote YES on Prop. 33.

Proposition 34 Vote NO
Campaign Spending
Limits and Disclosures

This initiative would practically require most legislators to begin campaigning as soon as they are elected. We feel that still more special interest groups and lobbyists will have the opportunity to gain even more control over state elected officials. We believe that the current spending limits and disclosures are sufficient at this time. Either a more comprehensive system of campaign limits or public financing should be found.

Proposition 35 Vote NO
Public Works Projects, Use of
Private Contractors for Architectural and Engineering Services

This initiative was placed on the ballot by signatures gathered by various groups of citizens. We are concerned with the specific wording: "Contracts awarded by competitive selection, bidding not required." While the current Caltrans system doesn't always work and it seems years to get anything done, in emergencies like earthquakes or other disasters, Caltrans has come through; we cite the Loma Prieta and Southern California earth-

LETTERS

Leno in the 8th

I want to add to your electoral coverage my impressions of Mark Leno, seen while I was a representative gay family speaker during last spring's campaign against the Knight initiative. Mark worked vigorously organizing S.F.'s fight against that right wing, anti-gay marriage proposal - with a devotion unparalleled among other local gay and lesbian elected officials - and became a statewide leader in this fight. Very much of this work was lonely, none of it compensated, but a fight for which LGBT San Franciscans and our allies needed and demanded leadership. Mark stepped up to this often thankless job.

As someone who worked hard for Tom Ammiano in the last election, and is supporting Tom's candidates in other districts in this election, I resist seeing Mark Leno's race as appropriately decided based on our feelings about the mayor. If his race is portrayed as being one of keeping the city for the disenfranchised, voters should remember that Mark's fight for our rights and against right wing bigotry was uniquely important to lower income LGBT people without as much access to lawyers who can draft some fixes such as powers of attorneys and wills that the inexpensive marriage license automatically provides straight couples. I hope others will join me in remembering Mark Leno in this election for his leadership demonstrated in the last one.

Charlie Spiegel
San Francisco

Hansen in the 8th

Joe O'Donoghue, head of the Residential Builders' Association is quoted in the *Chronicle* on October 14 about the District 8 supervisor contest between Mark Leno and Eileen Hansen: "We're going to tell people not to vote for Leno and not for her either." Mark Leno is quoted in the same article as saying, "Joe has endorsed Eileen."

Leno's claim to know more about O'Donoghue's position than O'Donoghue himself is not surprising to this District 8 resident. Leno has a history of this sort of deceptiveness, which is in large measure what has given rise to his having a number of challengers, particularly one as outspoken and principled as Eileen Hansen.

Leno has lost the respect of many residents over his unilaterally destructive efforts in sabotaging the dialogue toward establishing a youth-oriented shelter for young gays, giving rise to a burgeoning "Anyone But Leno" campaign centered in the Castro District but not connected to Hansen's campaign. As well, Leno's weak, johnny-come-lately support of growth controls is belied by his consistent backing for Mayor Brown's feverish support of development at all costs.

The votes provided by Leno for Brown's policies, and his almost total silence in the face of the city's displacement crisis, show Leno's hypocrisy in now trying to run from a voting record that ultimately contributed to the conditions that led to Proposition L's placement on the ballot. Voters should not be fooled. Eileen Hansen is the best choice for District 8.

Alan Collins
San Francisco

Hansen's 'hit piece'

I have been disheartened by some political tactics that have occurred recently in the District 8 race. I have had the good fortune to work with both Mark Leno and Eileen Hansen. I never assumed that this race would become one where the integrity of one of the campaigns of either of these candidates would need to be questioned.

However, a recent piece being distributed by the Hansen campaign that attempts to portray Mark as anti-labor, anti-tenant, and anti-homeless is appalling and does not look at Mark's entire record. I am rather surprised that Eileen would allow such a piece to be distributed. I have always thought of Eileen as someone who believes that the members of our community should be given all the facts in order to make educated decisions and choices.

The overall facts are clear. Mark's tenant voting record on the Board of Supervisors has been 100 percent. Mark received 62 percent of the Labor Council vote (Eileen received 38 percent). Mark worked tirelessly on behalf of a transitional housing program for queer young adults, while Eileen's campaign has courted the votes of those who are trying to stop this effort.

To see the Hansen campaign manipulate the community's trust by distorting the facts and reaching conclusions that are not consistent with the entirety of Mark's record is disingenuous at best and seems to be a cynical attempt to play politics as usual. It had been my impression, from my years of working with Eileen, that her progressive nature would preclude such heavy-handed and unfortunate tactics.

Randy Allgaier
San Francisco

Lavender tsunami

After reviewing the Official Toklas "Lavender Wave 2000" endorsements there is no real surprise in who and what they have decided to endorse. Pandering to

the "if they're gay they must be right for us" approach gives them reason to support the likes of Owens, Dittenhafer, and Leno. We need to elect independents who will make certain the voice of the neighborhoods will be heard at City Hall and not just rubber stamp everything the Brown administration tries to shove down our throats. Vote your politics, not your sexual orientation.

On their proposition endorsements we see Robert Barnes and his crew are masters at distorting the truth and their No on Proposition L proves that. Reading the text on these two initiatives it's quite obvious that L offers the citizens of this city a breather from the current wave of over-development that benefits no one except the developers who contributed heavily to Willie's re-election campaign last year.

On Proposition N they recommend you vote no and they say it limits first-time home buyers; and this of course is false and completely sidesteps the whole issue of evicting tenants which is accomplished with using the Ellis Act first then converting the units to TICs. The truth is that Prop. N only maintains the same (200 per year) cap on rental unit conversions that already exists to include both condos and TICs. In the midst of the worst rental crisis ever (vacancy rate of less 1 percent) it is counterproductive to allow even more apartments to be taken off the market and sold.

Don't blindly ride this lavender wave as it has the potential to be a tsunami of disastrous proportions for San Francisco. Elect Eileen Hansen (8), Chris Daly (6), and Matt Gonzalez (5) in the supervisorial race. Don't give Willie six new mistresses. Vote yes on N, H, & L and a big no on K.

Vince Pietromartire
San Francisco

Prop. N won't stop evictions

Unfortunately, Ms. Szymanski's article leaves the impression that Proposition N will stop the rash of evictions ["Queers help pro-tenant Propositions H and N," October 12].

It will not. It will force current San Francisco renters to always be San Francisco renters. These people will never be able to own a home here without having tenancies-in-common as an option.

If the current median price of a TIC is out of the reach of 90 percent of San Francisco renters, why is there a near 0 vacancy rate in the city? And who are the thousands of renters paying \$2,500 for a studio apartment? If a median TIC of \$382,000 is out of reach for most San Francisco renters, then who are these people willing to pay \$2,500 per month for a studio apartment? A \$382,000 apartment would cost less per month than many people are currently paying in rent. I know, I am a recent tenancy-in-common homeowner.

Tenancies-in-common are occupied by owners who live in these apartments. These TICs are people's homes, not speculations. A TIC cannot be converted into a condominium unless it has been owner-occupied for at least one year. A TIC is frequently used as a means for renters to be able to buy a San Francisco home. A real estate speculator cannot easily convert a TIC into a condominium. And, only a two-unit TIC can convert to a condominium after one year. How many large landlords will buy a two-unit property? Not many. How many current renters might be able to buy property as a TIC? A whole lot more than large landlords looking to speculate.

People deserve to know that most TICs are owned by people who live in these properties, and that TICs must be owner-occupied before they can be converted to condominiums.

Tom Hubbard
San Francisco

Whose camp is it anyway?

Recent letters published in the *Bay Area Reporter* have condemned the "Lavender Wave" endorsement slate of the Alice B. Toklas Democratic Club, claiming that the endorsed candidates have an anti-LGBT agenda. I would like to state that each candidate needs to be heard and evaluated individually and that Alice, unlike the Harvey Milk Democratic Club, is actually endorsing members of our LGBT community. Since the moment I began my campaign for the Board of Education, people have kept asking me something along the lines of "So, who is supporting you?" or the more direct approach, "So, whose camp are you in?" I find both questions utterly crazy, given the fact that I am an independent thinker. There are times when I agree with Tom Ammiano, times when I agree with the mayor, and times when I strongly disagree with the both of them. It is perceived that if you don't march lock step with either of them, you can't be trusted for a lack of allegiance, when in fact the true and important allegiance needs to be with the broader community.

We have two major gay and lesbian Democratic Clubs in this city: Harvey Milk and Alice B. Toklas. Milk has the reputation as being the club of Tom Ammiano and Alice as the club of the mayor or Robert

next page ►

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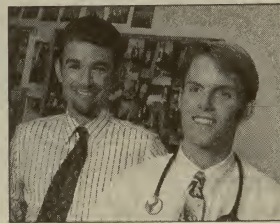
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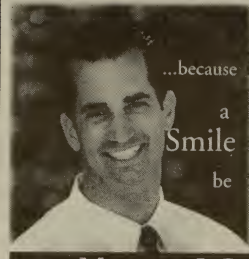
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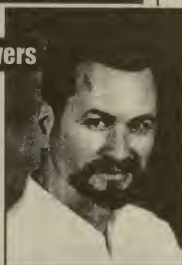
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Mr. Tracy has also appeared as Tamino in *THE MAGIC FLUTE*, Ferrando in *COSI FAN TUTTE*, and the Caliph in *KISMET*. He is in his second season with both the San Francisco Symphony Chorus and the Grace Cathedral Choir of Men and Boys.



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Barnes, depending on whom you ask. As a first-time candidate, I sought the endorsement of both Milk and Alice because I am in no one's "camp." I went to the endorsement meeting of the Milk Club just as I went to Alice; I went with an open mind. I am a member of neither club. Alice has endorsed some folks I support and some I do not. The same can be said about Milk. But Vince Quackenbush's and Jerry Threet's idea that Alice is somehow demonic and Milk is as pure as snow is unfounded and misleading.

I thought the idea of gay and lesbian Democratic clubs was to support LGBT candidates, not to fight over and make more divisive a community that is not adequately represented in the government. Maybe it is that the San Francisco LGBT community is so sophisticated that it does not need to support LGBT candidates anymore. Maybe we have come so far that race, class, gender, and sexual orientation do not matter. If that day dawned, I missed it. As an out African American female candidate, I am proud of the support I have received from Alice, the National Women's Political Caucus, the African American Democratic Club, and others.

A. Toni Young
Candidate for Board of Education

What would Harvey do?

Jerry Threet's recent diatribe assailing the Alice B. Toklas Democratic Club mystifies me. After the Milk Club attacked Alice for not supporting the late entry of Ammiano in the Mayor's race – and practically calling Alice homophobic for months because of this – now they've changed their tune and say that it's "about lavender issues, not lavender candidates."

Hogwash. What would Harvey do, one must ask? At least the Milk Club, like Alice, had the good sense to support Supervisor Ammiano, a solid and independent voice on the board. Next to Ammiano, Mark Leno and Sue Bierman are the most independent and progressive voices on the board. So why are they attacking Leno? Because they want their hand-picked candidate, Eileen Hansen, to win. Instead of working with effective gay leaders like Leno, it seems they are far more interested in political retribution.

Mark Leno has done more for neighborhoods than probably any current member of the board. He is a thoughtful, progressive coalition builder. He's taken on downtown interests, and in the process, angered both Mayor Brown and Joe O'Donoghue, the masterminds of the live-work loft invasion. He's fighting to preserve neighborhoods and battling monster homes. He's fighting for preservation of our nonprofits and arts groups. As a struggling photographer, I feel he's fighting for my very existence in our great city.

It seems that the Milk Club is suffering a bit of post-endorsement guilt, poor things. Not content to merely overlook Leno, Juanita Owens, and Lawrence Wong didn't do it for them, either. They both bring solid commitment and independent voices to the table. They are demonstrated, effective leaders, yet the Milk Club passed them over for their own bizarre motives. They are, in effect, cheating and deceiving our community for their own selfish, political ends.

And speaking of fundraising, the grapevine reports that Ms. Hansen has been raking in tons of \$99 contributions. If, as she states, "she is not for sale," then why is she hiding behind these checks, whose sources needn't be reported as they are under the \$100 reporting limit? Why is she encouraging independent groups to raise "soft money" on her behalf? Pull back the curtain, Ms. Hansen, what are you hiding?

As Harvey Milk always stated, first and foremost, we must elect our own effective leaders to truly have our voices at the table. I'll take demonstrated leadership over a vindictive slash-and-burn attack machine any day of the week.

Scott Trammell Moore
San Francisco

Homosexual soft money

While the homosexual soft money scions of the corporate dominated Democrat Party at Alice B. Toklas consider themselves as leaders of a club, we know it's not a club, it's more of a gang. And as they follow their soft money script whining for opening a relief valve for corporations [Mailstrom, October 19], they slam shut the relief valve for oppressed queers and freaks nationwide.

Proposition K, which would allow Willie Brown to appoint some nebulously defined, unaccountable, and bizarre "development czar," would raise the same drawback that many of us crossed to seek freedom in San Francisco: affordable rental housing while Proposition L seeks to keep the city accessible to queer cultural refugees.

And in okaying adding load to a decaying infrastructure, Alice must think it's okay to measure square footage of office space approved in pedestrian and cyclist injuries and deaths as the cars of all those new office workers compete with people for the same, finite space while the transit system struggles to overcome decades of Democrat disinvestment.

And were the Tokloids as concerned about solving Brown's housing crisis, then they might have leveraged their proximity to power to convince their corrupt mayor to develop a housing policy that supports working folks instead of only encouraging Joe O'Donoghue to build the expensive blight of the future in the form of overpriced substandard luxury housing that we know as live-work lofts, which Proposition L will define as housing once and for all.

The last thing this city needs is to allow a precipitous drop in its rental stock, which again, closes the bridge to freedom for queers nationwide. And that is exactly what the Ellis Act and TIC conversion cycle portends in the absence of new non-luxury rentals in this housing emergency and that is why we must pass Proposition N.

And finally, the Tokloids might have convinced Duh Mayor to spend the affordable housing bonds approved by the voters in 1996, Proposition A, \$100 million or the \$7 million in exactions gleaned for housing from permit fees on affordable housing at some point prior to the months leading up to this election.

If you want to filter future San Franciscans so they look only like the obedient and obsequious fawning foot soldiers at Toklas, blindly submitting to orders from on high, then by all means take their advice and vote their slate. But a city of only bottoms doing what they are told, never questioning authority would be a very boring place.

As part and parcel to enabling systemic corruption under the Brown Democrats, Toklas' participation in supporting this corporate coup with their regular soft money waves in harmony with blatantly homophobic slurs defines mean-spirited campaigning and is more akin to organized crime than promoting the interests of all segments of the LGBT communities.

Marc Salomon
Candidate for Supervisor, District 6

Listen up, progressives

In the 1972 film, *The Candidate*, Robert Redford is a progressive public-interest lawyer who is offered Democratic Party backing for a U.S. Senate run. Redford says he'll only do it if he gets to say exactly what he believes. Allen Garfield, his would-be handler, agrees but says there's a catch, then scribbles on a piece of paper: "You lose."

That is my problem with Ralph Nader. He can say exactly what progressives want to hear because he knows he's going to lose. Moreover, if every like-minded person in the nation voted for him, he would still lose. The country is simply not there yet.

Yet he runs, and quite possibly will tip the election to Bush. If that happens, be clear about the consequences: we'll be battling reactionary Supreme Court nominations, religious right appointees in powerful federal offices, indiscriminate federal leases for oil and lumber companies, huge budget deficits, and legislative battles over reproductive choice in state after state when – not if – Roe is overturned.

Nader tells his supporters that the election of Bush would be a small, temporary setback and that, somehow, it would radicalize the electorate. Hardly. That's the silver lining I hoped for after the election of Ronald Reagan and it never happened.

Reagan packed the courts with right wing ideologues, bankrupted the treasury with his across-the-board tax cut (I got \$3 extra in each paycheck), and ran his own secret war out of the White House basement. The country got economic stagnation, triple-dip recession, and record unemployment.

Did any of this result in a radicalized electorate? No. The voters handily re-elected him and after him, his vice president, George Bush. The Democratic Party has now moved closer to the center and Congress wants to erect a Reagan monument on the National Mall. Some revolution.

I respect the idealism of Nader supporters, but I say to them: you can wake up now and help elect Gore, help consolidate the modest progressive gains of the past eight years. Or, you can have a very, very rude awakening later.

T.J. Pierce
San Francisco

Gore better than Bush, but ...

Your editorial contrasting Bush and Gore contains many truths. Yes, Gore is better on LGBT issues than Bush. But why comply with the mass media's non-coverage of Ralph Nader's campaign? Do you know what he stands for on gay issues?

Nader is the only one of the three major presidential candidates who supports civil unions between gays. Here are his words, from the www.votenader.com Web site, "I think homosexuals have the right of civil union. There are economic reasons for that and there are humanitarian reasons for that, and I think the Vermont decision is a good one, and I think homosexuals should be given equal rights and equal responsibilities."

Gore is better than Bush, but if you want your vote to speak for gay rights this election, vote Nader.

Martin Stuart
San Francisco

POLITICS

Greens to help elect Republican Bush?

by Wayne Friday

With less than two weeks until the November 7 presidential election there is growing concern among Democratic Party campaign strategists that as Green Party nominee **Ralph Nader's** popular votes rise so, too, does the likelihood that Republican **George W. Bush** could be elected the next president of the United States.

Clearly, the votes that Nader receives in close tossup states like Oregon (7 electoral votes), Washington (11), Minnesota (10), Wisconsin (11), Michigan (18) and Pennsylvania (23) means that Nader might win enough otherwise Democratic votes in those states to tip enough of the states into the Bush column and help elect the Republican nominee. Still, though all national polls show this presidential election close enough in the final days that a few hundred Nader votes in any of these pivotal states could put those states in the Bush electoral column, Nader and his staunchest followers appear willing to give Bush the White House for four years rather than to see **Al Gore** win.

Most analysts feel that Nader, though he will *not* win in any state, could very well cost Democrat Gore as many as 37 electoral votes in close key states, thereby throwing the electoral vote to Bush. Seeming to actually bask in the reality that his candidacy could now eventually elect Bush, Nader this week appeared to direct most of his campaign rhetoric at Gore, telling an Oakland audience that "I want to defeat him [Gore]; I want to take more votes than I can possibly dream of."

Indeed, fearing a Bush win on Election Day, a group of longtime Nader followers – now calling themselves "Nader's Raiders for Gore," urged the Green Party nominee to "reconsider his candidacy" for fear his votes would "very likely elect George W. Bush." Nader, however, brushed aside his former supporters, claiming he intends "to build a third party" adding that "this is about building a party for another day." Nader points out that if his party should somehow get the necessary 5 percent of the popular vote nationwide – something experts say is highly unlikely – then the Green Party would be entitled to federal matching campaign funds for the year 2004.

How much good those funds would do toward building a viable third party is certainly questionable – one only has to look to **Patrick Buchanan** and the Reform Party to see how successful the \$12.5 federal funds has been; the Reform Party, according to all polls, is pulling around 1 percent of the national vote.

So, why is Nader seemingly working so hard to see that Gore doesn't win in November? Some close to Nader are saying privately that he feels that Gore, knowing he had the most to lose by a Nader Green Party candidacy, was the one who insisted that he (Nader) be kept out of the presidential debates. In fact, it was the Commission on Presidential Debates that



Ralph Nader, left, with Patti Smith's partner, Oliver, and Jello Biafra at an Oakland Green Party rally last Saturday.

set the rules for debate participants, namely, that they had to be polling in the 15 percent range to be included. Nader, however, apparently feels it's political payback time, and if four years of the Republicans is the result, then so be it. Indeed, the line that Nader and his closest advisers are putting out goes like this: "Our campaign is a protest movement," and as Nader himself

says, "We're actually trying to build a party; you don't build it in a day. You go to a certain stage on November 7. We get millions of votes on this round [while never expecting to actually win any state] and that sends a message that you guys either shape up or you're going to lose even more votes in the next election." As for the result of possibly defeating the more liberal Gore and actually electing a conservative, anti-gay Republican? The answer from Nader and his followers: "If George Bush is elected, more people will then get active in the protest movement."

Talk about biting off your nose to spite your face!

So, does Nader really hope that his candidacy has the direct result of defeating Democrat Gore and electing Bush? Sure sounds like it to me. Bottom line, a vote FOR Nader is clearly a vote FOR Bush. I know a couple of Nader's local campaign people – longtime Green Party activists whom I respect. But if we wake up on November 8 and find we have elected the conservative Bush-Cheney ticket because of Nader votes in particular swing states, we'll know who to thank. Hey, **Ross Mirkarimi**, are you reading this? Don't, I repeat, do not give your vote to Bush on November 7 by voting for Nader.

Politics and people

You likely won't often see them side by side, but look for the country's top campaigner, President **Bill Clinton**, to hit the campaign trail almost daily from now until November 7. Sure, the guy has political baggage – plenty of it – but Clinton is tremendously popular with African Americans and other minorities and Al Gore needs his campaign help badly.

Incidentally, even Republican strategists are said to be privately admitting it's all over but the

shouting in New York state with **Hillary Rodham Clinton** headed for a big win there.

It doesn't get any better for a candidate than this: In its endorsement of supervisorial candidates Sunday, the *San Francisco Examiner* called District 8 incumbent **Supreme Mark Leno** "the most effective supervisor on the board" and urged his re-election November 7.

Incidentally, the Schiff-Rogan race, one of the country's hardest-fought, has raised and spent a combined \$9.5 million, far more than the U.S. Senate contest between Democrat **Dianne Feinstein** and her GOP challenger, Representative **Tom Campbell**.

In addition the San Diego mayoral race, where two Republicans – a conservative and a moderate – are fighting it out, November 7 also means a new mayor will be elected in Sacramento and gay and lesbian activists there are reportedly split between City Councilmembers **Heather Fargo** and **Rob Kerth**.

A huge crowd at Assemblywoman **Carole Migden's** fundraiser/reception in San Francisco last Thursday. Migden, a sure thing for re-election next month, uses the funds she raises to help other Democratic legislative candidates across the state; and, yes, there was plenty of Carole for mayor talk at the overflow gathering.

Milton Marks III is running for a community college board seat next month and look for that respected political name to work its magic; a big win for the young Marks makes him a sure thing for higher office.

The *San Jose Mercury News* endorsed longtime activist **Ken Yeager** for City Council in that city's 6th District, and most think Yeager will become San Jose's first openly gay councilmember next month.

Finally, my "Quote of the Week" (from one of my favorite political columnists, **Robert Scheer** of the *Los Angeles Times*): "On Election Day, Al Gore, for all his faults, still deserves the votes of those who care about the frightening damage that a Republican sweep of the White House and Congress portends for this country. Behind that smug Bush smile lies the calculations of **Trent Lott** and the heart of **Jesse Helms**. There might even be room for the ghost of **Newt Gingrich** in a Bush cabinet. It's Halloween time."

And how was your week? ▼

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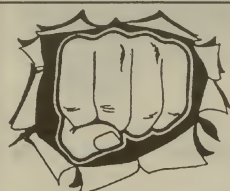
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Welfare is a 'gay' issue

by Paula Martinac

A recent forum in New York City showcased the experiences of queer people who have benefited from the U.S. welfare system. The event was part of a national progressive campaign to lobby for changes to the federal welfare law of 1996, which will be coming up for reauthorization by Congress early next year and which conservative politicians will try to gut. The many stories of gay people affected by welfare help dispel a frustratingly common misperception among lesbians and gay men – that welfare isn't a "gay issue."

The poor, in fact, make up a significant sector of queer people. You wouldn't know this if your only information about lesbians and gay men came from the media and popular culture. After all, the most visible and vocal members of our community, the ones who make it into magazines and onto television and the Internet, whose stories appear in books and movies, tend to be middle class or upper-middle class and educated.

But across the country there are poor lesbians struggling to support children; gay men disabled by AIDS; transsexuals fired from their jobs and unable to find other work; lesbian and gay seniors without fat pensions or off-

spring to take them in; and queer teenagers who either were thrown out by their rejecting families or ran away. ABC News estimates that at least one-third of all homeless people in Los Angeles are lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender youth. According to the Hetrick-Martin Institute, a queer youth service organization, the figure in New York City approaches a sobering 50 percent.

The welfare panel in New York City was organized by a newly formed group, the Queer Economic Justice Network. Formerly poor lesbians, gay men, bisexuals, and transgender people of many races and ethnicities testified to how



Lesbian Notions

welfare turned their lives around – that is, welfare as we used to know it. Their stories were both heartbreaking and inspirational.

One speaker was a lesbian who was sexually abused as a teenager and got pregnant. Because it was still possible in the early 1990s to receive welfare benefits as part of a college work-study program – no longer an option under the 1996 law – she was able to get a college degree and escape poverty. Another participant in the forum, a transsexual woman, talked of being homeless and unable to find a job while she was in transition. She had to rely on welfare to see her through.

How, then, can anyone think that welfare is *not* a "gay issue"? Although it's true that welfare isn't gay-specific, like same-sex marriage or "Don't Ask, Don't Tell," neither are other issues widely accepted as part of the queer political agenda. AIDS, for example, isn't a gay disease (we've fought hard against the perception that it is), and it only affects a portion of our community. Still, it tops our list of concerns, with many gay AIDS activists now expanding their work to Africa and other regions where the disease primarily attacks heterosexuals. The issue of hate crimes, too, cuts across sexual orientations and communities.

I suspect that many in the lesbian and gay community have trouble accepting welfare as a bona fide "gay issue" because of the stigma that poverty still carries in this society – very much like

being queer does. Prevailing stereotypes of welfare recipients include shiftless good-for-nothings and lazy "unwed mothers," who don't even try to better themselves. When government helps the "undeserving" poor, many people believe it simply becomes big and bloated at the expense of hard-working taxpayers.

That kind of outlook gave us the 1996 welfare law, probably the most hideous piece of legislation to come out of the Clinton administration. Under this punitive law, poverty is a vicious circle. In order to receive, on average, \$8,000 a year, welfare recipients have to work in dead end jobs that involve no training, like picking up trash in public parks. There are no provisions for education, even though a college degree offers a proven path out of poverty. There is no allowance for child care, leaving single mothers scrambling to finance it out of their meager earnings. And there are limits on how long anyone can receive benefits in a lifetime (in some states, it's a mere 18 months), with no recognition that some people take longer than others to establish themselves.

This law promotes the continued stigmatization of the poor for taking a "handout." But let's consider other forms of government subsidy, which many middle-class lesbians and gay men benefit from. For example, did you go to public school? Did you help finance your college education with low-interest student loans? Have you taken a tax deduction for your mortgage? Did you ever receive a capital-gains tax break? Have you claimed a business loss? Unlike welfare, though, *these* "handouts" are viewed as legitimate, and there's no shame incurred when they're accepted.

The queer community needs to increase consciousness about this issue and to place poverty firmly on the list of social problems that deeply affect us. And we need to work with non-gay communities for a better, more humane welfare law. ▼

Paula Martinac is the author of seven books. She can be reached care of this publication or at LNcolumn@aol.com. For more Lesbian Notions, visit www.planetout.com.

AOL

◀ page 2

Saturday night chat rooms.

Maccubbin does not believe it. He says that AOL has "weathered busy signals, hardware outages, and attempted boycotts, including gay ones." And still the giant continues to grow, now passing 25 million subscribers.

"Frankly, the chat rooms on AOL are superior to the chat rooms anywhere else on the Web," Maccubbin says. "And the gay community just kind of gravitates to those chat rooms." He sees no reason why a boycott would succeed this time; most gay men are more driven by hormones than by politics.

An online industry analyst, who requested anonymity, said there really is a financial incentive for Gay.com to trash AOL. The gay site is struggling to attract users to reach a critical mass attractive to advertisers. Controversy alone will help generate that traffic, and would be even better if some of

AOL's gay and lesbian subscribers became disenchanted and left the service.

In addition, the collapse of dot-com initial public offerings on Wall Street has closed that method of financing the red ink that most online operations continue to hemorrhage. The Darwinian struggle to survive is becoming more intense.

HRC surely believes its criticism of Case. But it also launched its own "HRC FamilyNet" earlier this month. A boycott of AOL might help drive more LGBT Web surfers to HRC's new site. Plus, both Gay.com and PlanetOut.com are corporate sponsors of HRC.

PlanetOut, the other large content provider targeting the LGBT community, has been silent on the controversy. Only its recently purchased subsidiary TheAdvocate.com, which is accessible through the PlanetOut home page, carried a tepid account of the controversy. Is that simply a matter of editorial judgment? Or does it reflect the significant minority share of PlanetOut held by AOL? ▼

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Who was Divine?

by Wik Wikholm

October 19, 1945 (55 years ago this month): Divine, star of *Pink Flamingos*, *Polyester*, and *Hairspray*, is born.

Few are shocked today when female impersonator RuPaul hosts a talk show or a TV special, or even when basketball player Dennis Rodman poses in a bridal gown. But in the late 1960s, when John Waters featured overweight drag queen Divine in his experimental 8-millimeter films, the reaction was very different. The Divine character was so outrageous that she created a sensation among underground film aficionados – and launched the career of one of the most outrageous celebrities of the 1970s and 1980s.

Nothing in Divine's childhood hinted at his future as the Queen of Bad Taste. He was born Harris Glenn Milstead on October 19, 1945, in Baltimore, Maryland, the only son of affluent parents. As an adult, he remembered that his parents coddled him at home, and

described himself as a "spoiled brat." But life at school was hard. Milstead was an effeminate, obese boy who suffered taunts and occasional beatings that made him feel like a social outcast.

At 15, Milstead found the sense of belonging he was missing. He met John Waters, another teenager about his age, and fell in with a group of friends who called themselves the Dreamlanders.

The Dreamlanders performed in short films Waters shot with a home-movie camera that celebrated the group's outsider status. Waters was fascinated with the bizarre, and in the mid-1960s he collaborated with Milstead to create the most outrageous character so far. Wearing a tight dress, a wig, and thick makeup, Milstead played Divine for the first time in *Roman Candles* in 1966. Milstead enjoyed the role, and he loved being an actor.

During his early collaborations with Waters, Milstead supported himself as a hairdresser, but at 23

he left Baltimore for Provincetown, Massachusetts. There, he opened "Divine Trash," a "nostalgia" store. From then on, Milstead called himself Divine ("Divi" to close friends) and remained Glenn only to his parents. Though Divine was the name of a female character, the actor identified as a gay man and preferred to be addressed as "he" when he was not in costume.

His collaborations with Waters continued, and 1969 brought *Mondo Trasho*, the first Waters movie picked up by New Line Cinema. *Multiple Maniacs*, in which Divine was

raped by a giant lobster, followed the next year, but real notoriety came with the 1972 release of *Pink Flamingos*. Divine starred as Babs Johnson, the "filthiest person alive," and proved it when she ate real poodle feces on camera. The \$12,000 movie had no promotional budget, so even though it embarrassed him, Divine agreed to the stunt to garner free publicity for the film. The scene succeeded



Divine

in attracting moviegoers, but the press largely ignored the film.

In the aftermath of *Pink Flamingos*, Divine won several stage roles in San Francisco, New York, and London, and in 1974 he starred in Waters's *Female Trouble*. The film was rated X, but it scored several reviews in mainstream newspapers. Though the reviews

were mixed, the attention convinced Divine that without a doubt, he was a film star.

Film star or not, movie roles did not come easily, and Divine struggled to earn a living in the late 1970s and early 1980s. His business manager knew that his client preferred acting, but he encouraged Divine to develop a nightclub act to pay pressing bills. The resulting show consisted of Divine hurling insults at his audience, always including the trademark phrase, "Fuck you. Fuck you very much." Fans went wild when he uttered it.

At his manager's suggestion, Divine added disco songs to his act and recorded "Born to Be Cheap" in 1979. The song ratcheted up United States and European charts and led to tours in England, Australia, and Europe. Divine's show still featured its trademark insults, but the addition of a musical performance made it more popular than ever.

Touring was interrupted in 1981 when John Waters asked Divine to play the lead in *Polyester*. The film was toned down enough to earn an R rating, but it was still calculated to shock. Divine played the wife of a philandering smut kingpin, a woman so unhappy that even her dog committed suicide. Waters and Divine followed in 1988 with *Hairspray*, Waters's first PG movie. In the film, Edna Turnblad (Divine) supported her daughter Tracy's (Ricki Lake) efforts to racially integrate *The Cornie Collins Show*, a television dance show, and an amusement park. The film ended happily with Tracy's success.

With its PG rating and its cheerful plot, *Hairspray* became the biggest hit of Waters's career to date, and the most lucrative work Divine was ever offered. But Divine did not live to enjoy the audience's enthusiasm. Doctors had warned for years that his weight would kill him and on the night of March 6, 1988, it did. An autopsy showed that the star died of a heart attack, the result of heart damage caused by chronic obesity. ▼

Wik Wikholm produces gayhistory.com, an introduction to modern gay history. He can be reached on the site's discussion boards, or by e-mail at wik@gayhistory.com. For more Past Out, visit www.planetout.com.

Suggested reading

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A Message from Jim Mangia, Gay Independent



Two independent presidential candidates asked for my endorsement. One was Ralph Nader. The other was John Hagelin. I endorsed John Hagelin. Here's why.

I've been a political independent and a gay activist for 20 years. During that time I've worked with the country's most significant independent leaders - from Ross Perot to Dr. Lenora Fulani -- and thousands of grassroots party builders whose names you've never heard. I believe that lesbians and gays are over-identified with the Democratic Party. I have worked to inspire our community to become part of an independent movement for political reform and social unity. The Democratic and Republican Parties are no friends of ours.

I first got to know Ralph Nader when I asked him to challenge Pat Buchanan for the Reform Party nomination. He would not agree to make that challenge. Later Nader asked me to endorse him on the Green Party ticket, which I seriously considered because I respect his outspokenness against corporate America, even though many gay people believe he has been insensitive to our cause.

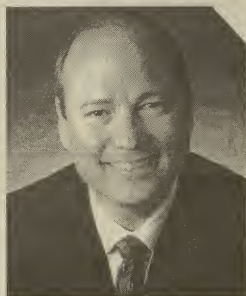
But there is another independent presidential candidate, Dr. John Hagelin, who has been in the party-building trenches since 1992. John did challenge Buchanan for the Reform nomination. He is on the ballot in close to 40 states and recently won the nomination of the country's largest and most inclusionary third party, the Independence Party of New York, with nearly 200,000 members.

John and his running mate Nat Goldhaber, a California-based Internet entrepreneur, are both strongly and unequivocally pro-gay. Most importantly, they believe that the independent movement must open its doors to lesbians and gays. Their brand of independent populism is inclusionary, and they are working hard to promote social unity, not just in words, but in action.

Unfortunately, Ralph Nader has failed to reach out to build bridges between constituencies and within the independent movement. He refused to participate in an independent debate hosted by Gov. Jesse Ventura, projecting that he was too much of a "big shot" to join other significant independents on the stage. He did appear on Meet the Press with Pat Buchanan, but did not utter a word to challenge him - either on Buchanan's positions or his destructive actions in independent politics.

The last thing the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender communities need is more big shotism. We've seen plenty of that in gay politics already. For independent politics to be successful, it's got to be a movement that's inclusive of all Americans! John Hagelin and Nat Goldhaber are the presidential and vice presidential candidates of that grassroots movement.

Join me in voting Hagelin/Goldhaber on **Tuesday, November 7**. It's a vote for a new political day for lesbian and gay America.



John Hagelin



Nat Goldhaber

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District 1

Candidates run in the Richmond

compiled by Cynthia Laird

District 1 includes the Richmond, and is currently represented by Supervisor Michael Yaki, who is seeking reelection and faces four challengers. Three of the candidates returned the *Bay Area Reporter* questionnaire.

Jason Jungreis

A past Democrat and current independent, attorney Jason Jungreis said he has "done nothing specific" to combat homophobia. In his district, Jungreis said that the two most pressing issues are transportation and fiscal responsibility and housing. Specifically, the city should be promoting a master plan development scheme with downtown high-rise apartments and use of taxes, rather than expensive bonds.

In terms of solutions to ease the city's housing crunch, Jungreis reiterated the need for high-rise apartments, along with "recognition that not everyone can have everything," and "inducements to encourage the elderly to leave the city."

Jungreis said that in terms of

working with business groups to keep the city's robust economy going, he would encourage high-tech industry and develop a master plan that encourages development in under-utilized areas of the city, such as the Bayview.

What's the one thing Jungreis wants the LGBT community to know about him? "I am independent and not beholden to any special interests."

Jake McGoldrick

College English teacher Jake McGoldrick said that he has always advocated for the rights of LGBT individuals in organizations in which he has been a member, as well as to his ESL students at City College and at the University of San Francisco. Additionally, he supervised the Richmond field operation in Roberta Achtenberg's bid for mayor and worked to elect Tom Ammiano as mayor of the city last year.

A longtime registered Democrat, McGoldrick said that the Richmond is faced with two very significant issues: the decreasing stock of affordable housing; and an inadequate transportation infrastructure. "An underlying cause

of both these problems is the breakdown of our city's planning process," he said.

A co-author of San Francisco's Proposition L on next month's ballot, McGoldrick said that if it passes, it will bring sanity back to the planning process. He also favors building more and denser affordable housing along transit corridors.

Addressing the red-hot economy McGoldrick said that "unless some planning is done during an upswing, it inevitably leads to a downturn as the overheated economy creates imbalance and displacement of necessary businesses and services. This is what we are beginning to see now." He added that the city must develop a streamlined system whereby an entrepreneur can go to one agency and complete all the tasks necessary to open legally.

What's the one thing McGoldrick wants the LGBT community to know about him? "I give you my word that I will never scapegoat the LGBT community in any way as did Supervisor Michael Yaki when he blamed the domestic partners ordinance for a totally unrelated crash of a police helicopter. Such clumsy appeals to homophobes must be condemned when they happen, and I would hope that the LGBT community would remember such actions and withhold their support from such individuals."

Michael Yaki

During his years on the board, Supervisor Michael Yaki said he voted to expand the Department of Public Health's outreach and treatment for HIV/AIDS patients, supported the use of city funds for queer youth

programs such as LYRIC and a shelter program for young LGBTQ adults in Eureka Valley. Additionally, Yaki was a co-sponsor of the landmark equal benefits ordinance and has participated in every domestic partner ceremony at City Hall.

Yaki, who describes himself as a progressive Democrat, used to serve as chief of staff to Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi. He said that two key issues in the Richmond District are pedestrian safety and transportation. "I have been successfully promoting traffic safety devices," Yaki said.

As chair of the Transportation Authority, Yaki said he has worked to meet transportation needs not only in the Richmond, but throughout the city. "I co-authored Proposition E, which put Muni under professional management and created an independent - not political - agency for its operations," he pointed out.

Regarding affordable housing, Yaki said he is working to support higher density housing development along major transit corridors. "I am working to expand and liberalize our zoning laws to encourage new housing and to require new levels of affordable

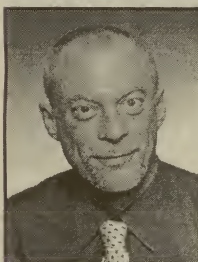
housing in San Francisco in exchange for 'density' bonuses in parcels," Yaki stated.

Promoting a strong economy is one of the highest priorities for Yaki as a supervisor, and he said that he is proud of his work with members of the business community to promote job growth, particularly in the high technology field.

In the Richmond District, Yaki said that additional programs for teen youth are needed, as the issue was the top response of a district survey that he helped initiate.

In terms of HIV prevention efforts, Yaki said he supports programs that will tailor outreach efforts to non-English speaking populations, as well as improved outreach within the LGBT community.

What does Yaki want the LGBT community to know about him? "As a Richmond District resident for over 12 years, I understand the concerns of the district, as well as San Francisco's many diverse communities such as the GLBTQ community. As an Asian American, I understand and empathize with the feelings of racism, oppression, and bigotry, and have made a commitment to civil rights one of the hallmarks of my public service." ▼



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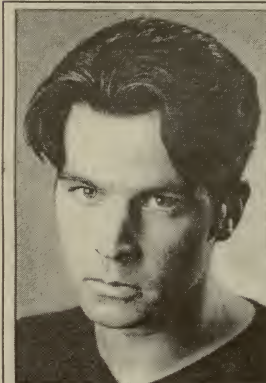
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District 3

Race is on to represent Chinatown, North Beach

compiled by Cynthia Laird

San Francisco's District 3 includes Chinatown, North Beach, Russian Hill, Telegraph Hill, Fisherman's Wharf and part of Polk Street. There are eight candidates running for the seat that is currently held by Alicia Becerra, who was appointed by Mayor Willie Brown and is seeking election. Three of the candidates returned the *Bay Area Reporter* questionnaire. For information about candidate Lawrence Wong, see the story on page 1.

Bob Coleman

While public interest attorney Bob Coleman is heterosexual, he said he has campaigned to bring the city's diverse communities together. He also has some understanding of the transgender community, as he has a transgender brother.

A longtime Democrat, the two most pressing issues in the race for Coleman are housing/land use planning/neighborhood preservation, and achieving the voters' intentions for district elections through genuine limits on excessive campaign spending.

"I seem to be the only candidate seriously interested in the growth control measures on the ballot," Coleman said, adding that he supports Proposition L on next month's ballot; he opposes Proposition K, which is backed by the mayor.

Regarding campaign reform,



Bob Coleman

Coleman said he's the only candidate to support tighter ethics regulations and campaign finance reform during the hearings before the Ethics Commission. He is free of the soft money endorsement machinery.

"Opponents of rent control wrongly suggest that it disrupts supply-demand equilibrium and unfairly shifts costs to smaller numbers of vacant units," he said. "My opinion is that San Francisco's a special case, wherein supply-demand equilibrium cannot be supported with destroying neighborhood livability with inappropriate density."

His solutions include making sure that the city has better planning overall for zoned density only where it is adjacent to transit and ending loopholes that remove large numbers of units from the available housing stock. Coleman said he supports Proposition N as a way of closing the TIC loophole to the condo conversion law.

In terms of working with business groups, Coleman said, "With proper planning in housing, neighborhood preservation, transportation, and health policy, we can balance our need to fund city services with the need to retain our economic vitality. ... Neighborhood-based small businesses shouldn't be lost through a failure to get our planning priorities. Large businesses will also benefit from improvements in city services and housing."

Needed city services in the district include improvements in health services, public schools and libraries, the transit system, and parks.

City departments should be streamlined, Coleman said. "Prob-

page 22 ►

MANY GAY & LESBIAN PEOPLE MAY SOON BE BARRED FROM BUYING OR SELLING THEIR HOMES

An initiative that will harm many gay and lesbian homeowners, and would-be homeowners, has been placed on the upcoming ballot by extremists. Those of us who have been fortunate enough to become homeowners, as tenants-in-common, will be prohibited from selling our homes if Proposition N passes. The CRIMINAL PENALTY for doing so will be 6 months imprisonment, with civil penalties of \$10,000.

And, gay and lesbian renters, who want a place at the table and who aspire to becoming homeowners, will be denied that opportunity. Tenancy-in-common is the most affordable form of home ownership in San Francisco, but if Proposition N passes, any tenant who attempts to purchase a tenancy-in-common unit will be subject to 6 months in jail.

For years, gay and lesbian people have fought an uphill battle to achieve equality. In many parts of the country, and in the military, gay and lesbian people are considered criminals and can be imprisoned for exercising their constitutional rights. But in San Francisco? Because we want to be homeowners like everyone else?

Many parts of the Nation are hostile to our community, and many of us have come to enjoy the feeling of equality in San Francisco. Many of us have put down roots here, have a stake in our City, and have become homeowners enjoying almost the same rights and privileges as heterosexual couples. **Proposition N reminds us that those rights can be easily taken away.**

Who would believe that, in San Francisco, extremists would push a measure that would IMPRISON gay and lesbian people for attempting to purchase or sell our homes? Well, believe it, and if you don't, get a copy of Proposition N. You might be going to jail.

THE FACTS ARE:

Tenancy-in-common has been a standard form of property ownership for hundreds of years, and predates the founding of the United States;

Many, if not most, gay and lesbian couples hold title as tenants-in-common;

Many, if not most, TIC owners are gay men or lesbians;

Many, if not most, TIC buyers are gay men or lesbians;

Heterosexual couples are permitted to hold title to their property in more ways than are gay and lesbian couples (they can avail themselves of community property rights - we are denied those rights);

If gay and lesbian couples are not allowed to hold title as tenants-in-common, we will be denied the opportunity to bequeath our property to our heirs. The right to will our property to our family and loved ones will be stripped if Proposition N becomes law.

The extremists who put Proposition N on the ballot don't care about the injustice it perpetrates on our community. Extremists, whether from the right or the left of the political spectrum, are insensitive to the unique ways in which we define family. And, they don't care that we are often FORCED to hold title as tenants-in-common as there is no other option. They, apparently, care only about exercising MUSCLE. And, their political ideology is one that includes muscling US out of our homes, and denying US the same rights and opportunities that they enjoy.

When our community has attained full equality, including the right to hold title as community property (as the extremists can and do), perhaps we can talk about giving up some of our hard fought-for rights. Till then, send the extremists a message. Fight back!

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District 4

Hsieh vies for seat in Sunset

by Cynthia Laird

Lifelong Democrat Tom Hsieh Jr. is running against incumbent Supervisor Leland Yee and five other candidates to represent residents of the Sunset District. He was the only candidate in the district who returned the *Bay Area Reporter* questionnaire.

Hsieh, who recently got married, said that he has always stood

up for the rights of minorities, and would continue to do so if elected. He has spent many years working with city officials, neighborhood leaders, business leaders, and residents on issues essential to the future of San Francisco such as mass transit and accessible health care. "I am also very open minded and willing to engage all voters in a discussion of how to forge solutions for our city," he said.

Hsieh said he's running because he is angry. "For too long the Sunset has been the forgotten neighborhood of San Francisco," he stated. The number one issue in the Sunset, Hsieh said, is the need for a strong voice and effective leader to win resources from the city, including programs such as parks, housing, homelessness, streets, emergency services, seniors, and youth.



Rick Gerhart

Concerning solutions to ease San Francisco's housing crunch and create more affordable housing, Hsieh said he supported the \$100 million bond for affordable housing. "The key to have more market rate housing is to create more investment incentive," the candidate said. "The city should be helpful to developers in the areas of zoning and the building permit application process. Landlords should not be treated like public enemy number one, but treated with the fairness of all other business entities."

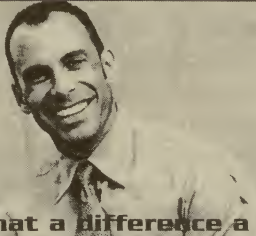
Hsieh said that over-regulation of housing controls has led to reduced housing supply and no incentive to improve properties. And he hit upon one way to create more affordable rental units. "The city's illegal in-law unit ordinance is totally outdated and should be revisited to free thou-

sands of units for tenant usage and tax revenue."

In terms of working with businesses, Hsieh pointed out that San Francisco is the regional center of business, culture, communication, and recreation. While enjoying the best of economic times, the city continues to face challenges that impact all successful big cities: crime, expensive housing, substandard schools, homelessness, and non-responsive public service.

"Specifically, we can embrace the digital revolution and welcome new technology businesses to thrive in our city," he added. He also pointed out that San Francisco has long been a gateway to the Pacific Rim, which is another new horizon for jobs and business.

Regarding the streamlining of city government, Hsieh said that he will cut the fat out of City Hall. ▼



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District 5

A variety of candidates fight for the Haight

compiled by
Katie Szymanski

San Francisco's District 5 includes the Haight-Ashbury, Western Addition, and part of Hayes Valley. This decidedly progressive part of town has 11 candidates running to represent the district on the Board of Supervisors; seven of them returned the *Bay Area Reporter* questionnaire.

Rob Anderson

Rob Anderson, a Green Party supe candidate in District 5, declined to state his sexual orientation because he believes it is not relevant. On his experience combating LGBT-phobia, Anderson said, "I conduct myself like a civilized person. An individual's sexual orientation should not diminish his/her right to be treated with respect."

Anderson, a self-described "leftist" since 1962, said the two biggest issues facing his district are homelessness and the need for a third, more progressive party. To combat the housing crisis, he emphasized the need to retain rent control and an immediate end to condo and tenancy-in-common conversions.

"The people getting hurt the most - the homeless and the renters - should get the most political attention," said Anderson, "not those who can afford to buy

condos."

He also believes that in order to continue the economic upswing, the city needs to start at the bottom of the income pool.

To preserve neighborhood character, Anderson praises district elections as a means to empowerment, especially when faced with the Planning Commission's allegiance to City Hall.

"Mayor Brown's recent purge of the Planning Commission is how not to go about protecting the neighborhoods," said Anderson, referring to the recent firing of a planning commissioner due to his refusal to support the mayor's development initiative.

Anderson said that his district already has many of the services needed to function, but "a few areas - like parts of Western Addition - need more attention from the police."

Muni, he said, also needs to improve, "including a phase-out of the use of toxic diesel fuel. Muni now uses more than 6 million gallons a year."

He wants the LGBT community to know that "the issues my campaign is based on transcend sexual preference, ethnic identity, and gender perspectives."

"A united, compassionate city has an obligation to do something serious about homelessness," said Anderson. "And we need a big-tent progressive party to call our own."

Demian Barrett

Demian Barrett knows all about Green and Democratic platforms, as he has been a member of both parties, recently withdrawing from the Green Party to become an independent. He describes himself as "socially liberal and fiscally conservative," against socialism and corporate welfare.

The supe candidate acknowledges that 70 percent of the city's social services are within District 5, but he aims to merge and streamline those services, enhance-

ing them to be more effective and shutting down those that duplicate what is already offered.

Other issues facing his district are traffic safety - he supports slowing traffic down, but opposes banning right turns on red lights - and housing, where he proposes "density bonuses" for projects that provide affordable units, a revision of the height and bulk limits of certain development, and a revision of rent control.

He also proposes community policing, more street cleaning, and a "face-lift" for the lower Haight and upper Divisadero.

Barrett declined to answer questions relating to sexual orientation, but delivered the message to the LGBT community that he supports increased funding for HIV prevention, and values the diversity of his district.

"I bring to the table energy and tenacity," said Barrett, "and a vision of what I believe San Francisco can become."

Jay Bagi

When local politics heavily favor one party, even the Democrats can get corrupt. It was for this reason that District 5 supervisor candidate Jay Bagi recently dropped out of the donkey club and went Green.

But Bagi, a 37-year-old openly gay man who has lived in the district for 13 years, doesn't sound like your typical Nader-touting citizen; in fact the candidate describes himself as a social liberal with regard to the gay, labor, and women's movements, but as a moderate-to-conservative on "law and order issues, particularly violent crime."

When asked about easing the housing shortage, Bagi favors a moratorium on commercial development in order to emphasize residential development, at all economic levels.

"That means more shelters, SROs, and transitional housing, more rental stock, and more home

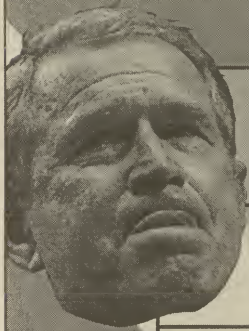


John P. Brown - SFGate



Jane Philomen Clarendon

Election 2000 Math Quiz!



Number of pro-gay policies **George W. Bush** supported **before** his meeting with gay Republicans: \emptyset

Number of pro-gay policies **George W. Bush** supported **after** his meeting with gay Republicans: \emptyset

Number of times **George W. Bush** appointed an openly gay or lesbian official to his administration in Texas: \emptyset

Number of times **George W. Bush** publicly pronounced the words "HIV" or "AIDS": \emptyset

Number of times **George W. Bush** vowed to support the Hate Crimes Prevention Act: \emptyset

Number of times **George W. Bush** promised to support legislation protecting gays and lesbians from workplace discrimination: \emptyset

Number of times **George W. Bush** said he would support legislation lifting the ban on gays and lesbians in the military: \emptyset

Number of times **George W. Bush** expressed support for equal legal protections for gay and lesbian couples: \emptyset

Number of times **George W. Bush** spoke out against the anti-gay planks in the Republican Party platform: \emptyset



GEORGE W. BUSH = \emptyset

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District 6

Quite a mix of candidates running in South of Market

compiled by Terry Beswick

Here is [sic] my FUCKING answers to your GAY RAG Paper," began one District 6 candidate, apparently displeased with the *Bay Area Reporter's* coverage of his criminal past.

Fortunately, most of the 11 candidates of the 17 running in the diverse district that includes the Tenderloin, part of Hayes Valley, South of Market, the northern Mission, and Treasure Island and who responded to the *Bay Area Reporter's* questionnaire were not so pugnacious.

Gilbert F. Criswell

But none were more enlightening than Gilbert F. Criswell — the candidate quoted above.

Asked what he has done personally or politically to combat homophobia and/or transphobia in the city, Criswell noted that he has been "any [sic] OUT of the Closet Gay Man that has lived my life practicing my homosexuality."

To his credit, Criswell, who is also now out as a convicted felon — courtesy of the B.A.R. — for embezzling funds from the Eastern Seals Society, responded to other key questions of interest to the LGBT communities.

He would pass "legislation that keeps the Planning Commission process and Redevelopment Commission in check and abide by the current laws that the voters approved." He would create "loan efficient mortgages" to "allow a variety of families who would not currently qualify for a loan to obtain a mortgage," create "more jobs for the people that live here," and give "the business [sic] a tax break."

"Give me a fucking break," Criswell begged, asked how he would direct the Department of Public Health to be more aggressive in its HIV prevention efforts. Evidently the question made assumptions the candidate did not agree with. "Get real. Ladies or

should say Dykes take your strap-on off and get real."

But what Criswell really wants the LGBT community to know about him is his anger directed toward a number of individuals and groups, including this newspaper.

Though difficult to decipher, his explanation of the events that led to his embezzlement conviction and lawsuit against the City and County of San Francisco and the San Francisco Police Department notably fails to address the actual charges he was eventually convicted on.

It was during the infamous Castro Sweep on the evening of October 6, 1989 when Criswell alleges that he was "walking on the sidewalk" on Castro Street when a police officer still employed by SFPD and "to this day unknown to Mr. Criswell" assaulted him, striking him on the arm with a billy club, pushed him down on the sidewalk, threatened to hit him on the head, called him a "fag," and told him to go home.

Criswell sustained a broken arm in the attack, he said, and added that even with a bleeding head wound "not one person" assisted him in walking to Davies Medical Center for treatment. He claims that he sustained "injury to his body and shock and injury to his nervous system and person, causing and continuing to cause great physical, mental, and nervous pain and suffering."

Then-Police Chief Frank Jordan and "the unknown SFPD officer denied any claim against Mr. Criswell," he stated, and on November 16, 1989, he was thrown in jail by Jordan "for a 1986 theft from a nonprofit for embezzling money as an accountant."

Denise D Anne

One of two openly transgender persons running in District 6 this year, and an active member of the Harvey Milk LGBT Democratic Club, Denise D Anne has worked on many campaigns

to combat homophobia and transphobia in San Francisco, including the successful United Airlines boycott for domestic partnership coverage and the campaign against Laura Schlessinger's homophobic talk show.

But the most pressing issues facing District 6, D'Anne believes, are "lack of affordable housing, homelessness, drugs, prostitution, safety, and clean streets."

To create more housing, the candidate would "plug the loophole that now allows corporations to lease rent controlled apartments to be used for hotels for visiting corporate managers," tap into state and federal funds, and spend "bond money set aside for housing that we already have." The city should "keep our rent control laws and even enhance them," "build more co-op housing units both for sale and rental, and pass Proposition L, which she said would restrain "out-of-control growth."

To deal with homelessness, D'Anne would "build dormitory style housing with in-house services, such as education, job training, and treatment on demand, and teach confidence-building skills," perhaps in a high-rise building on Treasure Island.

"We do not allow stray animals on our streets and we should not treat human beings any differently," D'Anne stated.

D'Anne noted that she is "in favor of small businesses," but said that the "present economic upswing is more like a speculation bubble than a true upswing since it is depriving many residents of their ability to live near where they work. And increasing the tax burden on those who survive."

The would-be supervisor opposes plans for the Mission Bay Project.

"Businesses are not paying for the infrastructure needs such as emergency services, transportation, sewer, etc.," she said. "This [Mission Bay] biotech project will create 30,000 jobs but only provide for 10,000 housing units. This is like trying to get 240 people to live in a house that accommodates four people."

"I would prefer an incremental upswing rather than the wrench-

ing one we are currently enduring," she commented.

Recently retired from her job at the Department of Human Services, D'Anne would expand to all city agencies a program she developed at DHS known as the "resource recovery program." She would also make local government more efficient by conducting an annual audit of each department, looking for waste and inefficiencies.

"Some departments are top-heavy with administration," D'Anne charged. "This needs to be examined and such administrative staffing reduced. Other departments are understaffed with people who do the day-to-day work, such as in the Department of Public Health."

To curtail HIV infections, DPH needs more money "to do its job in HIV prevention and other services," and needs to "do more outreach and education," "work with nonprofits that are providing HIV services," and "implement a mentoring program as part of its educational outreach to potential HIV victims."

What would D'Anne like the LGBT community to know about her?

"I have spent over 30 years working on issues that either affect this community directly or indirectly," she noted. "I have worked on health care, housing, discrimination, transportation, women, senior, and youth issues. I will aggressively work to end discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation but most especially on gender identity discrimination."

Chris Dittenhafer

"As a branch manager for Wells Fargo," wrote Chris Dittenhafer, Mayor Willie Brown's choice for incumbent-less District 6, "I have worked to encourage and support the bank's commitment to gay, lesbian, transgender, and bisexual organizations and causes such as the AIDS Walk and San Francisco's Pride Parade."

My activities with the Council of District Merchants and other groups are an opportunity for me to bring together gay and straight business owners in effective collaborations and coalitions to improve our community and our city."

For Dittenhafer, the two most pressing issues facing the district he called "an extremely neglected part of San Francisco," are "growth and homelessness. Growth is a multifaceted issue that must be addressed in various planned processes. I would look to improve our city's response to homelessness by better coordination of services."

To further deal with the lack of affordable housing in San Francisco, the candidate said that the city needs "policies that provide a balanced approach to growth without slowing the economic boom we currently enjoy. I support planned growth in housing along transit hubs and in underdeveloped areas of the city. I will work to ensure that all working families have a place to live."

"My support of planned growth absolutely includes an increase in affordable housing. I am currently supporting both Propositions H and N."

Dittenhafer would continue the current economic upswing, he wrote, by continuing to work with the Council of District Merchants, where he has served as president for the last seven years, "and all businesses to create effective policies, which encourage and maintain economic growth."

"Once elected, I will commit my experience within city government to streamline issues facing the district," offered Dittenhafer, asked how he would make the workings of government more efficient. While he declined to point to any department that he thought was most unresponsive to the public and in need of reform, he said he would "commit to increased accountability in all departments of the city on a regular basis and make recommendations of performance standards."

Dittenhafer said that "as the latest statistics have shown an increase in HIV transmission, the current outreach programs must be improved to become more effective. I will support and work with the Department of Public Health to enhance and improve access to information and will monitor these programs on a regular basis to determine effectiveness."

"My commitment to the gay, lesbian, transgender, bisexual community will always be a priority both personally and professionally," the openly gay Dittenhafer said. "Having been the victim of bigotry and violence growing up in rural Pennsylvania, I understand firsthand what our community has accomplished and what we will accomplish in the future."

Dennis Isner

While openly gay Dennis Isner was one of the 11 supervisory candidates running in District 6 who responded to the B.A.R.'s questionnaire, he merely faxed in a standard position paper rather than responding to the specific questions posed.

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■ HIGHLY EFFECTIVE THERAPY

CRIXIVAN in combination with antiretroviral agents is a powerful protease inhibitor that fights HIV and is among the preferred treatments for HIV in federal healthcare guidelines.¹ CRIXIVAN can help reduce the chance of illnesses and death associated with HIV; CRIXIVAN can also help lower the amount of HIV in your body (called "viral load") and raise your CD4 T-cell count, as shown in studies over a one-year period. Some patients may not experience these effects. CRIXIVAN is not a cure for HIV or AIDS.

■ DURABLE RESULTS

In a landmark study, over 90% of 31 patients receiving a combination of CRIXIVAN, AZT, and 3TC reduced their serum viral load below the limit of detection after 24 weeks. Importantly, the limited number of patients who chose to stay with the study for longer periods of time maintained these results through the one-year mark. In a separate study, 30% of 261 patients receiving dual therapy of CRIXIVAN and AZT had serum viral loads below the limit of detection at 48 weeks. In another landmark study, 43% of 40 patients receiving combination therapy with CRIXIVAN, AZT, and 3TC had plasma viral loads below the limit of detection at 40 weeks. In this study of over 1,000 patients, the group of patients receiving CRIXIVAN along with 3TC and AZT achieved a reduction in deaths and AIDS-defining illnesses over those taking 3TC and AZT alone. Overall, the number of deaths was inadequate to assess the impact of CRIXIVAN on survival. Blood viral loads were measured by available tests and the virus may still be present in other organ systems.

■ THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT CRIXIVAN

CRIXIVAN can be taken with a light meal or on an empty stomach. Some patients treated with CRIXIVAN may develop stones in the kidney or urinary tract. For some, this can lead to more severe kidney problems, including kidney failure. Drinking at least 6 glasses of water each day may help reduce the chance of forming these stones. Other side effects reported include rapid breakdown of red blood cells and liver problems.

As with other protease inhibitors, changes in body fat, increased bleeding in some patients with hemophilia, and increased blood sugar levels or diabetes have been reported. Additionally, severe muscle pain and weakness have occurred in patients also taking cholesterol-lowering medicines called "statins." There are some common medications and AIDS-related medications you should not take with CRIXIVAN. Also, taking CRIXIVAN with any products containing St. John's wort, an herbal supplement, is not recommended because it may lead to increased viral load and possible resistance to CRIXIVAN. Discuss all medications you are taking or plan to take with your doctor.

For more detailed information about CRIXIVAN, please read the information immediately following this advertisement.

¹Guidelines for the Use of Antiretroviral Agents in HIV-Infected Adults and Adolescents. Panel on Clinical Practices for Treatment of HIV Infection, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), May 5, 1999.

**Remember to ask your
doctor about CRIXIVAN.**

CRIXIVAN[®]
(indinavir sulfate)
Capsules



Patient Information about CRIXIVAN® (KRIK-sih-van)

for HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus) Infection
Generic name: indinavir (in-DIH-nuh-veer) sulfate

9024512

Please read this information before you start taking CRIXIVAN. Also, read the leaflet each time you renew your prescription, just in case anything has changed. Remember, this leaflet does not take the place of careful discussions with your doctor. You and your doctor should discuss CRIXIVAN when you start taking your medication and at regular checkups. You should remain under a doctor's care when using CRIXIVAN and should not change or stop treatment without first talking with your doctor.

What is CRIXIVAN?

CRIXIVAN is a protease inhibitor for the treatment of HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus). HIV is the virus that causes AIDS (acquired immune deficiency syndrome). CRIXIVAN is a type of HIV drug called a protease (PRO-tee-ase) inhibitor.

How does CRIXIVAN work?

CRIXIVAN is a protease inhibitor that fights HIV. CRIXIVAN can help reduce your chances of getting illnesses associated with HIV. CRIXIVAN can also help lower the amount of HIV in your body (called "viral load") and raise your CD4 (T) cell count. CRIXIVAN may not have these effects in all patients.

CRIXIVAN is usually prescribed with other anti-HIV drugs such as ZDV (also called AZT), 3TC, ddI, ddC, or d4T. CRIXIVAN works differently from these other anti-HIV drugs. Talk with your doctor about how you should take CRIXIVAN.

CRIXIVAN has been studied in adults. The safety and effectiveness of CRIXIVAN in children and adolescents have not been established.

How should I take CRIXIVAN?

There are six important things you must do to help you benefit from CRIXIVAN:

1. **Take CRIXIVAN capsules every day as prescribed by your doctor.** Continue taking CRIXIVAN unless your doctor tells you to stop. Take the exact amount of CRIXIVAN that your doctor tells you to take, right from the very start. To help make sure you will benefit from CRIXIVAN, you must not skip doses or take "drug holidays". If you don't take CRIXIVAN as prescribed, the activity of CRIXIVAN may be reduced (due to resistance).
 2. **Take CRIXIVAN capsules every 8 hours around the clock, every day.** It may be easier to remember to take CRIXIVAN if you take it at the same time every day. If you have questions about when to take CRIXIVAN, your doctor or health care provider can help you decide what schedule works for you.
 3. **If you miss a dose by more than 2 hours, wait and then take the next dose at the regularly scheduled time.** However, if you miss a dose by less than 2 hours, take your missed dose immediately. Then take your next dose at the regularly scheduled time. Do not take more or less than your prescribed dose of CRIXIVAN at any one time.
 4. **Take CRIXIVAN with water.** You can also take CRIXIVAN with other beverages such as skim or non-fat milk, juice, coffee, or tea.
 5. **Ideally, take each dose of CRIXIVAN without food but with water at least one hour before or two hours after a meal.** Or you can take CRIXIVAN with a light meal. Examples of light meals include: dry toast with jelly, juice, and coffee (with skim or non-fat milk and sugar if you want); corn flakes with skim or non-fat milk and sugar.
- Do not take CRIXIVAN at the same time as any meals that are high in calories, fat, and protein (for example — a bacon and egg breakfast). When taken at the same time as CRIXIVAN, these foods can interfere with CRIXIVAN being absorbed into your bloodstream and may lessen its effect.
6. **It is critical that you drink at least six 8-ounce glasses of liquids (preferably water) throughout the day, every day. CRIXIVAN can cause kidney stones.** Having enough fluids in your body should help reduce the chances of forming a kidney stone. Call your doctor or other health care provider if you develop kidney pains (middle to lower stomach or back pain) or blood in the urine.

Does CRIXIVAN cure HIV or AIDS?

CRIXIVAN is not a cure for HIV or AIDS. People taking CRIXIVAN may still develop infections or other conditions associated with HIV. Because of this, it is very important for you to remain under the care of a doctor. Although CRIXIVAN is not a cure for HIV or AIDS, CRIXIVAN can help reduce your chances of getting illnesses, including death, associated with HIV. CRIXIVAN may not have these effects in all patients.

Does CRIXIVAN reduce the risk of passing HIV to others?

CRIXIVAN has not been shown to reduce the risk of passing HIV to others through sexual contact or blood contamination.

Who should not take CRIXIVAN?

Do not take CRIXIVAN if you have had a serious allergic reaction to CRIXIVAN or any of its components.

What other medical problems or conditions should I discuss with my doctor?

Talk to your doctor if:

- You are pregnant or if you become pregnant while you are taking CRIXIVAN. We do not yet know how CRIXIVAN affects pregnant women or their developing babies.
 - You are breast-feeding. You should stop breast-feeding if you are taking CRIXIVAN.
- Also talk to your doctor if you have:
- Problems with your liver, especially if you have mild or moderate liver disease caused by cirrhosis.
 - Problems with your kidneys.
 - Diabetes
 - Hemophilia
 - High cholesterol and you are taking cholesterol-lowering medicines called "statins".

Tell your doctor about any medicines you are taking or plan to take, including non-prescription medicines, herbal products including St. John's wort (*Hypericum perforatum*), or dietary supplements.

Can CRIXIVAN be taken with other medications?*

Drugs you should not take with CRIXIVAN:

SELDANE® (terfenadine)	HISMANAL® (astemizole)
VERSED® (midazolam)	HALCION® (triazolam)
ORAP® (pimozide)	Ergot medications (e.g., Wigraine® and Cafergot®)
PROPULSID® (cisapride)	

Taking CRIXIVAN with the above medications could result in serious or life-threatening problems (such as irregular heartbeat or excessive sleepiness).

In addition, you should not take CRIXIVAN with the following: Rifampin, known as RIFADIN®, RIFAMATE®, RIFATER®, or RIMACTANE®.

It is not recommended to take CRIXIVAN with the cholesterol-lowering drugs MEVACOR® (lovastatin) or ZOCOR® (simvastatin) because of possible drug interactions. There is also an increased risk of drug interactions between CRIXIVAN and LIPITOR® (atorvastatin) and BAYCOL® (cerivastatin); talk to your doctor before you take any of these cholesterol-reducing drugs with CRIXIVAN.

Taking CRIXIVAN with St. John's wort (*Hypericum perforatum*), an herbal product sold as a dietary supplement, or products containing St. John's wort is not recommended. Taking St. John's wort has been shown to decrease CRIXIVAN levels and may lead to increased viral load and possible resistance to CRIXIVAN or cross resistance to other antiretroviral drugs.

Drugs you can take with CRIXIVAN include:

RETROVIR® (zidovudine, ZDV also called AZT)	EPIVIR™ (lamivudine, 3TC)
ZERIT® (stavudine, d4T)	isoniazid (INH)
BACTRIM®/SEPTA® (trimethoprim/sulfamethoxazole)	DIFLUCAN® (fluconazole)
BIAXIN® (clarithromycin)	ORTHO-NOVUM 1/35® (oral contraceptive)
TAGAMET® (cimetidine)	Methadone
VIDEX® (didanosine, ddI) — If you take CRIXIVAN with VIDEX®, take them at least one hour apart.	
MYCOBUTIN® (rifabutin) — If you take CRIXIVAN with MYCOBUTIN®, your doctor may adjust both the dose of MYCOBUTIN and the dose of CRIXIVAN.	
NIZORAL® (ketoconazole) — If you take CRIXIVAN with NIZORAL®, your doctor may adjust the dose of CRIXIVAN.	
RESCRIPTOR® (delavirdine) — If you take CRIXIVAN with RESCRIPTOR®, your doctor may adjust the dose of CRIXIVAN.	
SPORANOX® (itraconazole) — If you take CRIXIVAN with SPORANOX®, your doctor may adjust the dose of CRIXIVAN.	
SUSTIVA® (efavirenz) — If you take CRIXIVAN with SUSTIVA®, your doctor may adjust the dose of CRIXIVAN.	

Talk to your doctor about any medications you are taking.

What are the possible side effects of CRIXIVAN?

Like all prescription drugs, CRIXIVAN can cause side effects. The following is not a complete list of side effects reported with CRIXIVAN when taken either alone or with other anti-HIV drugs. Do not rely on this leaflet alone for information about side effects. Your doctor can discuss with you a more complete list of side effects.

Some patients treated with CRIXIVAN developed kidney stones. In some of these patients this led to more severe kidney problems, including kidney failure or inflammation of the kidneys. Drinking at least six 8-ounce glasses of liquid (preferably water) each day should help reduce the chances of forming a kidney stone. Call your doctor or other health care provider if you develop kidney pains (middle to lower stomach or back pain) or blood in the urine.

Some patients treated with CRIXIVAN have had rapid breakdown of red blood cells (hemolytic anemia) which in some cases was severe or resulted in death.

Some patients treated with CRIXIVAN have had liver problems including liver failure and death. Some patients had other illnesses or were taking other drugs. It is uncertain if CRIXIVAN caused these liver problems.

Diabetes and high blood sugar (hyperglycemia) have occurred in patients taking protease inhibitors. In some of these patients, this led to ketoacidosis, a serious condition caused by poorly controlled blood sugar. Some patients had diabetes before starting protease inhibitors, others did not. Some patients required adjustments to their diabetes medication. Others needed new diabetes medication.

In some patients with hemophilia, increased bleeding has been reported.

Severe muscle pain and weakness have occurred in patients taking protease inhibitors, including CRIXIVAN, together with some of the cholesterol-lowering medicines called "statins." Call your doctor if you develop severe muscle pain or weakness.

Changes in body fat have been seen in some patients taking protease inhibitors. These changes may include increased amount of fat in the upper back and neck ("buffalo hump"), breast, and around the trunk. Loss of fat from the legs and arms may also happen. The cause and long term health effects of these conditions are not known at this time.

Clinical Studies

Increases in bilirubin (one laboratory test of liver function) have been reported in approximately 10% of patients. Usually, this finding has not been associated with liver problems. However, on rare occasions, a person may develop yellowing of the skin and/or eyes.

Side effects occurring in 2% or more of patients included: abdominal pain, fatigue or weakness, low red blood cell count, flank pain, painful urination, feeling unwell, nausea, upset stomach, diarrhea, vomiting, acid regurgitation, increased or decreased appetite, back pain, headache, dizziness, taste changes, rash, itchy skin, yellowing of the skin and/or eyes, upper respiratory infection, dry skin, and sore throat.

Swollen kidneys due to blocked urine flow occurred rarely.

Marketing Experience

Other side effects reported since CRIXIVAN has been marketed include: allergic reactions; severe skin reactions; yellowing of the skin and/or eyes; heart problems including heart attack; abdominal swelling; indigestion; inflammation of the kidneys; inflammation of the pancreas; joint pain; depression; itching; hives; change in skin color; hair loss; ingrown toenails with or without infection; crystals in the urine; painful urination; and numbness of the mouth.

Tell your doctor promptly about these or any other unusual symptoms. If the condition persists or worsens, seek medical attention.

How should I store CRIXIVAN capsules?

- Keep CRIXIVAN capsules in the bottle they came in and at room temperature (59°-86°F).
- Keep CRIXIVAN capsules dry by leaving the small desiccant "pillow" in the bottle. Keep the bottle closed.

This medication was prescribed for your particular condition. Do not use it for any other condition or give it to anybody else. Keep CRIXIVAN and all medicines out of the reach of children. If you suspect that more than the prescribed dose of this medicine has been taken, contact your local poison control center or emergency room immediately.

This leaflet provides a summary of information about CRIXIVAN. If you have any questions or concerns about either CRIXIVAN or HIV, talk to your doctor.

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DISTRICT ELECTIONS

District 6

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His campaign platform focuses on transportation, development/housing, homelessness, and education. People can check out www.dennisisner.com for more information.

Davy Jones

New to politics, Davy Jones did not indicate his sexual orientation on his response, but said that he has spoken "at community [events] about zero tolerance for hate crime offenders."

The candidate said he would ease San Francisco's housing crisis by "changing the rules and allowing developers to build 50-story apartment high-rises on 10,000 square feet as proposed by Supervisor Mark Leno."

With 10 years experience in the business arena, Jones said he supports small businesses, will oppose any tax increase on local businesses, and "will meet with business owners every two months to find innovative ways to maintain the current economic upswing."

The Department of Public Health is the least efficient of all city departments, said Jones, adding that "[DPH director] Dr. [Mitchell] Katz must be held accountable for the funding problems facing San Francisco General."

Jones wants the LGBT community to know that he has "been a member of the community for 10 years. As president of a cancer nonprofit organization, I promoted prostate cancer awareness in our community. I was recognized for my efforts to save lives by [the] governor of California, members Congress, and community leaders. I am a former union member of Local 1100. Give me the opportunity to work for you. Give yourself the opportunity to experience positive change."

Beryl Magilavy

Board of Supervisors President Tom Ammiano's pick for supervisor, heterosexual Beryl Magilavy "is supporting LGBT rights, [though] I have not been politically active in this area."

Magilavy wrote that she is most concerned with the "rationalizing of land use decisions" and public safety issues in District 6.

"We must preserve and expand affordable housing in a way that retains neighborhood character and we must ensure that unchecked dot-com development doesn't destroy the fabric of existing uses," she said.

Strongly in favor of maintaining rent control while increasing housing density "to as high a density as can be accommodated in appropriate areas while respecting neighborhood character," Magilavy said that "if we want effective schools and day-to-day services such as mail delivery, transit, building maintenance, and everything else that makes city life workable, then it must be possible for the people that provide those services to find affordable housing here in the city."

And to deal with public safety issues: "I will work closely with the Police Department and the community to actively promote the economic revitalization and phys-

ical beautification of the district and the city, to discourage crime and attract more legitimate street activity."

To continue the current economic upswing, Magilavy said that "having run a 17-employee nonprofit recycling center, I understand the challenges of operating a business and the particular obstacles faced by small business owners in San Francisco."

Jim Reid

Openly gay Jim Reid, who last year ran unsuccessfully for mayor, said that he has fought homophobia by being public about being gay "all of my adult life."

The most pressing issues on Reid's agenda for District 6 are homelessness and housing, he wrote, and to deal with the problems, he would "build 100,000 housing units that all San Franciscans can afford... redefine affordable housing down from \$230,000, allocate all public land to build only affordable housing and office space... build smaller units [with] 100 square feet minimum (see habitatforthehomeless.org), sell 50,000 rental units to the tenants who now live in them."

Reid would work to streamline the city government and counter its inefficiencies, he said, by amending the City Charter to create a "Department of Homeless Services," moving all staff and services from other agencies to the new department to "develop a model for service and care for homeless people for the nation to copy."

Reid wants LGBT people to know "that I treasure the fact that I am gay. I see it as a gift and I share it."

Joan Roughgarden

"Although I 'pass' acceptably, I am not stealth," said Joan Roughgarden. "I represent transgendered people, and feel proud and responsible to do so."

Since she transitioned just two years ago, male-to-female transgendered Roughgarden has worked to combat homophobia and transphobia in the Bay Area as a member of the board of directors of OASIS, the Episcopal Church of San Francisco's ministry to gay, lesbian, and transgendered people, and on the board of directors of the student center for LGBT people at Stanford University, where she is a teacher and a scientist specializing in the environment.

As a member of the Board of Supervisors, Roughgarden wants to tackle District 6's biggest problems, which she says are displacement, crime and public hygiene, and the need to strengthen community facilities.

"I would resolve displacement by passing Proposition L so that growth in housing can catch up with the growth in jobs," she wrote. "I would resolve crime and public hygiene issues - in the Tenderloin and 6th Street corridor especially - by supporting the police efforts there (which I feel are surprisingly good) and by introducing civil engineering systems principles to waste management efforts [at] the Department of Public Health."

Rare among the candidates for supervisor, Roughgarden ac-

knowledgeed that she "doesn't see a quick fix" for the housing crunch in San Francisco, though she does have some proposals to shift the current displacement trend, in addition to the passage of Proposition L. The candidate would expand housing "along the Third Street line in the direction of Bayview, urge more dense housing than presently planned in Mission Bay, revise the height limits in the Tenderloin, and direct the RFP [request for proposals] of the upcoming Treasure Island redevelopment to contain substantial housing."

Roughgarden is also a rarity among candidates for her far-sighted commitment "to value and appreciate what the much-maligned dot-coms are bringing to the city." To encourage and continue the current economic good times, she would also "facilitate introducing telecommunications to the city. I also will work to foster the commercial contacts our businesses already have around the Pacific Rim. I will strengthen the transportation system that our industry depends on, support education of the work force, and ensure a supply of labor by encouraging housing in all price ranges."

Roughgarden would direct DPH to be more aggressive in its HIV prevention efforts "by working against the corporate culture among medical personnel that precludes involving the public in public health policy-setting."

And what does the much-overlooked candidate for District 6 want the LGBT community to know about her?

"I am proud to be a member of the queer community," she wrote. "I, too, have been alone and terrified. Yet we are alive. I have the skill to advance our interests. Let's aim high!"

Marc Salomon

Out queer-bi-fag candidate Marc Salomon has fought homophobia, he noted, as a member of an earlier generation of ACT UP/San Francisco, challenging the Reverend Lou Sheldon's Traditional Values Coalition in the early 1990s.

Corruption and the lack of adequate, affordable housing are the big issues facing District 6, Salomon said.

"Housing is critical, but we must clean house before we are able to address other issues," he stated. "I will call a campaign finance reform summit to craft ballot measures that will put [City Attorney] Louise Renne to work breaking new ground to weaken downtown [Mayor] Willie Brown's corporate coup."

As far as maintaining the economic boom in the Bay Area, the candidate remarked, "Don't confuse \$150,000,000,000 in venture capital flooding the Bay Area with an economic upswing. It's not sustainable if my dot-com is any indication... I will challenge Brown's policy that rolls out the red carpet for big business and red tape for small."

"I will convene a citywide constituent assembly to propose a democratic replacement to the authoritarian [city] charter," he said, "[thereby] providing meaningful participation by average citizens in the decision-making that effects our lives."

He wants the Department of Public Health "to carefully oversee their affiliates so that our tax dollars are not wasted on prevention

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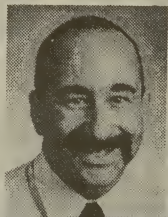
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District 3

◀ page 14

lems remain most glaring at Planning, Health, Parking and Traffic, Muni, Rec and Park, and the Port," he added. "City government is bloated by 'special assistants' to the mayor, consultants, and poorly prepared appointees."

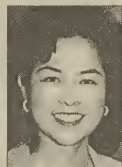
What's the one thing Coleman wants the LGBT community to know about him? "In my 20 years as a public interest lawyer and educator, I've never stopped battling the anti-pride forces that oppose better health care, housing, and other critical services."

Rose Chung

Republi- can Rose Chung said that she has always lived her life treating everyone on an equal basis regardless of ethnicity, sexual orientation, age, or disability. She opposed Proposition 22 and had her letter opposing the anti-gay ballot measure published in the *San Francisco Chronicle*.

Chung believes that the government should practice fiscal responsibility. "The proper role of government is to provide only those critical functions that cannot be performed by individuals or private organizations," she stated.

According to Chung, the most pressing issue in District 3 is the preservation of the quality of life and the unique character of the



Rick Gerhardt

neighborhoods.

"It will be important for me to meet with my fellow citizens, new and established neighborhood groups on a regular basis to set and carry out the priorities for maintaining the unique character of our neighborhoods," she said.

In terms of developing affordable housing, Chung said San Francisco has the land. What is needed is for the city's Redevelopment Agency to allocate land for creating affordable housing.

On San Francisco's economy, Chung said that she would work with business groups to survey needs of businesses to better place them in functional areas where the city government, community, and businesses can all benefit.

To prevent HIV transmission, Chung said that the Department of Public Health should provide for ongoing and updated advertising and education. "We also need to continue to provide for more outreach efforts such as needle exchange," Chung added.

What's the one thing Chung wants the community to know about her? "I want the LGBT community to know that I am a fair and consistent leader and manager who will listen to all sides."

Mike DeNunzio

Candidate Mike DeNunzio said he will "balance the board" if elected supervisor. "I am independent of the political machine and



Rick Gerhardt

District 6

◀ previous page

programs that don't work. I would ensure that we had a scientifically consistent message coming out of the department. There is no scientific crime in being wrong, but there must be an open and honest accounting to folks at risk when things change. Nonoxynol-9, for instance, might cause more HIV than it prevents, but we don't see this being publicized. ... Openness and honesty are the best viricides; manipulation decreases confidence."

Salomon wants readers to know that he is "bigger than District 6."

"I am ashamed of the corporate sellout of the Pride Parade and propose creating a community-based, participatory Mardi Gras/Carnival season on the weekend evenings surrounding the Folsom and Castro street fairs."

Carol Ruth Silver

She may be heterosexual, but don't hold that against her. Former Supervisor Carol Ruth Silver, who is "Democrat, liberal, and proud" noted that her long history of fighting homophobia in San Francisco "starts with supporting the first gay parades as counsel to the sheriff. I wrote with Harvey Milk the first anti-discrimination laws to protect gays and lesbians, and I have continued to support gay issues."

The most urgent problems for District 6 are the "homeless mentally ill and housing for the middle class," both issues requiring expansion of existing services and housing facilities.

To solve the problem of home-

lessness, she would "start with allowing tenants to purchase their own units, make regional planning a necessity, and make denser building a possibility." She would also legalize in-law apartment units.

The candidate would direct the Department of Public Health to be more aggressive in HIV prevention efforts "carefully, because such direction would be illegal. But I would use the influence of the board to the same effect." She did not offer specifics.

Silver want readers to know about "my long record of support for LGBT issues, as well as for the fight against discrimination and prejudice wherever it has appeared."

Hank Wilson

Hank Wilson is openly gay, adding that he started his campaign against homophobia when he joined the Bay Area Gay Liberation and co-founded the Gay Teachers Coalition in 1975, and has continued his career as a grassroots activist in San Francisco fighting for LGBT people through to the present day with a multitude of largely successful projects.

Former manager of a Tenderloin residential hotel providing housing and services to people challenged with disabilities and substance use problems, Wilson advocates a wide range of initiatives to tackle the city's deepening housing shortage and homelessness crisis, beginning with "strengthening renter protections for everyone who is already housed." He supports Proposition H "which would limit capital improvement pass-throughs," Proposition N "which would limit condo conversions," "repeal of the Ellis Act" through the state initiative process if necessary,



Rick Gerhardt

special interests and have sound fiscal judgment. I have a career guiding multi-million dollar projects. I will also devote 100 percent of my time to the job."

As the former president of Community Counseling Services, DeNunzio said he has brought community leaders together on major nonprofit projects for health care, education, social, cultural, and religious causes.

As he sees it, this election is about the future. "San Francisco must have a strong, diverse economy to provide jobs and fund the services in our county budget," DeNunzio said. "I will work to protect small neighborhood businesses. And, I will work to revise land use policies and integrate with care into our local economy the new dot-com, biotech, and multimedia industries."

DeNunzio said that the issues of District 3 are the issues of the city. "My legislative agenda will address both."

DeNunzio also said he would promote the four-corridor transportation plan and improve infrastructure to increase public transportation and reduce traffic congestion.

"I am determined to reform general assistance and reduce homelessness through humane interventions, effective therapies, and more transitional housing," the candidate said.

DeNunzio added that he and his wife, Annette, have lived in the district for 20 years. He is a member of numerous local organizations, including San Francisco Planning and Urban Research, and the Telegraph Hill Dwellers. ▼

passage of an ordinance that would prevent second homeowners from evicting their tenants "for a secondary home or office," enforcement of residential zoning laws, fund nonprofit acquisition of housing stock, support an affordable housing bond measure, and support revisions to the building code to allow more economical housing construction.

The candidate supports the Proposition L slow-growth measure, and would "begin a dialogue to find and explore common ground between those who want development and those who want to slow it," and "begin a dialog about the importance of the late night [entertainment] industry and the arts community."

Asked how he would make city government more efficient, Wilson said he supports zero-based budgeting throughout city government, and would require monthly progress reports from the police, Muni, and fire departments on their continuing problems with overtime.

But he called the Department of Public Health one of the most inefficient departments. "Patient care should not be compromised," all vacancies at San Francisco General Hospital should be filled, and the hospital's pharmacy should be retained "with better management," Wilson said.

He would direct DPH to tackle rising HIV infection rates by first directing targeted resources toward substance abuse treatment, expanding harm reductions programs, including the Stonewall Project "to support gay men coping with their speed use, giving renewed attention to the use of speed and poppers because both turn up as risk factors for seroconversion."

"I feel a responsibility to queer and parentless youth," wrote Wilson. "I want the community to take on the responsibility of supporting them, helping them with the transition into our community." ▼

DISTRICT ELECTIONS

District 7

Candidates square off West of Twin Peaks

compiled by Cynthia Laird

A fairly conservative part of San Francisco, District 7 includes the West of Twin Peaks area. There are six candidates running in the district, including incumbent Supervisor Mabel Teng. Two of the candidates returned the *Bay Area Reporter* questionnaire.

Harold Hoogasian

Republican candidate Harold Hoogasian has run a Lombard Street flower store for more than 20 years. During that time, he has employed a number of gay florists and office workers. "Sexual orientation, in my book, is irrelevant as a factor in employment, and people should be judged on their merits," the heterosexual Hoogasian said.

The most pressing issue in District 7, Hoogasian said, is traffic congestion.

Concerning traffic, Hoogasian noted that with the partial closure of the Central Freeway in 1989, 19th Avenue which traverses Districts 4 and 7 and is a state highway, has been jammed with traffic daily. Noting that the Department of Parking and Traffic recently released a report proposing construction of an underground freeway beneath 19th Avenue, Hoogasian said he would take it a



Rick Genhart

step further. "That we make three bores ... one for light rail (either BART or Muni), and two for traffic." Once the construction is finished, 19th Avenue could be beautified and made into a four lane boulevard with a grassy median and bike lanes.

Regarding housing, Hoogasian said that the city needs to significantly increase the supply of housing for all incomes and family size. "The housing needs to be a mix of rental units, condominiums, townhouses, and homes," he explained.

"This can only be done if the no-growth policies of the 1970s and 1980s are reversed and San Franciscans reject that mentality by voting no on Proposition L," he said.

To streamline city departments, Hoogasian would increase city funding of management audits of city departments so that they all could be audited in the next six years.

Addressing HIV prevention, Hoogasian said that "We need to recreate and disseminate the horrific images of the early 1980s of people currently in the terminal phases of AIDS ... so that young gay males and those who have forgotten how it was, remember, and recognize that the resurgent epidemic of unsafe sex currently happening in the city ... will inevitably lead to an increased number of AIDS diagnoses and deaths."

What does Hoogasian want the community to know about him? "I feel passionately about issues and am outspoken, and will work diligently with voters of my district,

the general public, ... my colleagues on the board, the mayor, and city officials to reach consensus and develop legislation which will improve the lives of people in district and citywide."

Rennie O'Brien

Health care practitioner Dr. Rennie O'Brien said he has done nothing either personally or politically to combat ho-



Rick Genhart

mophobia or transphobia. A liberal Democrat, O'Brien has been endorsed by the San Francisco Tenants' Union.

He listed affordable housing and transportation as the two most pressing issues facing District 7. His solutions to ease the city's housing crunch include rent control and to build more units along transit corridors. To create more immediate affordable housing, O'Brien favors changing the law regarding in-law units.

O'Brien proposed creating historic districts in order to work with neighborhood groups and residents to help maintain the city's unique neighborhoods.

O'Brien also proposed a wholesale replacement of the Planning Commission.

Regarding HIV prevention efforts, O'Brien said more access and funding are needed.

What's O'Brien want the LGBT community to know about him? "I'm open and willing to listen." ▼

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District 8

Castro candidates fight to the finish

compiled by
Katie Szymanski

District 8 includes the Castro and Noe Valley, as well as Glen Park, Twin Peaks, Diamond Heights, Dolores Heights, Eureka Valley, and Duboce Triangle. Incumbent Supervisor Mark Leno faces a stiff challenge from five candidates. Four of the candidates returned the *Bay Area Reporter* questionnaire.

Eileen Hansen

Making a living outside of government often means that a person does not always get credit for work accomplished, but supporters of Eileen Hansen know that the District 8 candidate for supervisor has been on the front lines to battle everything from unfair HIV/AIDS policy to LGBT equality.

The former policy director at AIDS Legal Referral Panel fought anti-gay rhetoric from the Anita Bryant days, was a delegate to the LIFE Lobby that later led to her co-founding the California Alliance for Pride and Equality, was behind efforts to add "transgender" to the Harvey Milk Democratic Club's name, co-founded the



Jack Philbin/Cleveland

African American/Queer Dialogue Group, and was awarded the "Harry Britt Lifetime Achievement Award" in 1993.

The lefty Democrat said that the biggest issues facing her district are housing and neighborhood character, and wants to focus on persevering rent control, expanding affordable housing, maintaining height limits, and creating a neighborhood planning council to counteract the city Planning Department's allegiance to big developers.

Hansen herself will soon be looking for a new apartment, as her rental residence of 12 years has recently been placed on the market, and she joined with other renters to help create the new Castro Tenants' Union. Hansen wants to extend this work to confront illegal evictions and redefine what "affordable" housing means, noting that the Bay Area's high incomes for a few offset the median price that most people can reasonably handle. She would also like to see live-work lofts pay their fair share of taxes, and wants all loopholes closed that currently allow for continued displacement at a rapid rate.

To continue the city's economic upswing, Hansen would like to explore commercial rent control for small businesses, and introduce legislation that protects community service organizations, noting that without these vital institutions the booming economy

is hardly beneficial.

Other issues Hansen would tackle for District 8 include a compassionate solution for the homeless situation that includes neighborhood input, a reasonable compromise for the off-leash dog wars, addressing the changing demographics of children and seniors within the district, and creating services specifically aimed at new arrivals looking for LGBTQQ support. The budget, she said, should prioritize essential services and call on big businesses to pay their fair share.

On HIV/AIDS prevention, Hansen knows from her 14 years experience as an AIDS advocate that things need to change.

"I would use my lobbying experience to secure more dollars for the health department. And I will demand that the health department continue community education, hold regular community meetings, and work with community-based organizations to target at-risk populations," she said.

The one thing Hansen would like the LGBT community to know about her is that "For 30 years I have been at the forefront of progressive struggles, providing leadership within our many varied communities. My record and experience, along with my proven ability to bring diverse populations together, indicate clearly the positions I will continue to take on behalf of us all."

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District 9

Tom Ammiano is heavily favored in the Mission

compiled by
Katie Szymanski

District 9 is viewed by many as ground zero for the city's recent displacement woes. Encompassing the Mission District and Bernal Heights, many artists have been forced out of the area by dot-coms and the area is home to several development projects that have seen vocal demonstrations in front of City Hall and at Planning Commission meetings. Board of Supervisors President Tom Ammiano is a solid favorite to win re-election. He is being challenged by four candidates. Two candidates returned the Bay Area Reporter questionnaire.

Tom Ammiano

The name alone has become synonymous with "enough said" when talking about LGBT, housing, and health care rights. But Tom Ammiano, the incumbent supervisor in District 9, has a lot to express when it comes to the issues his district and city are facing.



Marc Geller

A longtime champion of progressive causes, Ammiano pushed to end discrimination against LGBT teachers when California faced the now-infamous ballot measure that would have banned queers from the classroom. He fought alongside the late Harvey Milk for gay and lesbian representation in local government. And as supervisor, he authored the city's landmark domestic partnership ordinance and added HIV/AIDS status to many non-discrimination clauses.

The lifelong Democrat says the most pressing issues faced by his

district are housing and office space development, resulting in Ellis Act evictions and the displacement of working class residents. To address these issues, he said that he will work to maintain and strengthen the existing rent control ordinance and "vigorously advocate that low-income and affordable housing is prioritized." The candidate supports Proposition L as a way to curb displacements and he also wants live-work lofts to pay their fair share of taxes. With so many nonprofits and local businesses forced out due to the dot-com influx, Ammiano blames "poor planning" and said Proposition L will help to address this issue as well. He wants developers to either provide a percentage of affordable housing or give a cash contribution to an affordable housing fund, and favors giving building contracts to non-profit developers. He also advocates that the Planning Commission adopt clear guidelines on how neighborhood input will be used in the decision process for further development.

To ensure that the economic upswing continues, Ammiano wants to make sure that small businesses are not left behind by working with merchants' associations and securing more loans for storefront improvements. The services most needed by District 9, he said, are funds for small businesses, a diversion of bus lines to ease the congested Mission Street, and parks and open space. The city's boom means it has the money for such improvements, but "city departments have no incentive to save money. All city departments should be subject to zero-based and performance-based budgeting," said Ammiano.

On HIV prevention, Ammiano noted that DPH has taken a "reactive" rather than proactive approach, instilling prevention efforts only when a particular pop-

ulation is already found to have a greater rate of infection.

"I believe DPH must identify all target populations, including the LGBT community, communities of color, youth, women, and other at-risk groups," said Ammiano.

The one thing he would like the LGBT community to know about him is "Throughout my years in office, I have encountered virtually every issue affecting San Franciscans. While issues such as housing, public transportation, the living wage, or labor may not seem to be LGBT issues, I have always considered them critical to our quality of life."

"Because the LGBT community will always remain dear to my heart," said Ammiano, "I hope it always feels I've looked out for its best interest, no matter what the issue."

Ron Norlin

Ron Norlin said he is a Republican who by San Francisco standards is a moderate. "But in any other city," he noted, "I would be a far-left liberal."

Norlin, an openly gay man who has lived with his partner in the Mission since 1967, counts campaign contributions to gay and gay-friendly officials on his



Jane Philomen Chabaud

list of anti-homo/transphobia efforts. When he owned his own business, he also donated free services over the years to groups like the AIDS Emergency Fund and the Names Project.

While the Mission is one of the most heavily targeted neighborhoods for redevelopment, Norlin welcomes the change and said the biggest issues facing his district are dirty streets and sidewalk drug dealing and street prostitution.

"Our neighborhood has long been neglected by City Hall," said Norlin, who proposes some Giuliani-style surveillance for problem blocks. "I can get the sidewalks and streets cleaned, and with a little high-tech help get Web cams set up on Capp Street and other areas known to be drug-dealing areas."

Norlin acknowledged that the Mission's rapid development has resulted in too much displacement, and said "controlled growth," and "fast-tracking Mission Bay development" are a couple of solutions. He also proposes more housing development on the "under-built" Mission Street as well as Third, Geary, Judah, and Taraval. He recognizes that large housing structures are often met with "not in my backyard" attitudes and said "developments will need to be neighborhood specific and blend in with existing construction."

Norlin really enjoys the current economic upswing and laments that "San Francisco is getting to be known as dot-com-unfriendly."

District 5

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moderate-to-conservative on "law and order issues, particularly violent crime."

When asked about easing the housing shortage, Bagi favors a moratorium on commercial development in order to emphasize residential development, at all economic levels.

"That means more shelters, SROs, and transitional housing, more rental stock, and more home ownership opportunities for real middle income earners."

Bagi wants to rewrite the tenancies-in-common ordinance to favor current tenants and also wants to create more co-ops. He also noted that under the current administration, only \$1 million of the city's \$15 million designated

toward minority ownership opportunities has been spent.

The biggest issues facing District 5, he says, mirror the rest of the city's issues, but there is a particular problem with street drugs, in part due to a myriad of available services without clear protocols.

"The perception of many residents," said Bagi, "is that there is an over-concentration of services, coupled with lax law enforcement which is acting as a magnet for substance abusers."

Bagi supports treatment on demand, "so long as it is not used as a means of evading criminal prosecution," and wants homeless and drug treatment programs to have distinct mission statements and objectives so that they can be evaluated.

Bagi's contribution to LGBT rights includes the financial sup-

"It is the Internet explosion that has fueled our economy, and we need to work with the forces of the new economy as well as with the more traditional ones to lead and create emerging 21st century economic paradigm. Business needs to contribute its fair share to city services, and San Francisco needs to deliver those services in the best possible manner."

He believes that the Mission is the city's most unique neighborhood and that "we can accommodate change and still retain that 'Mission essence' that has made it such a choice destination on the first place."

The Planning Department, he said, needs an overhaul, and "needs to be reminded that they must serve the specific needs of our unique neighborhoods."

Transportation is another one of Norlin's issues, and he proposes an express BART line down Folsom or Bryant streets, and new uniforms for Muni drivers so that employees don't feel "like second-class citizens."

On HIV prevention, Norlin said that DPH "needs to emphasize continuing education and a campaign of reminders. A partnership with some of the community-based AIDS organizations would make a winning combination."

Norlin is proud to be a member of the LGBT community and would like the community to know that he and his partner celebrated their 33rd anniversary last month. ▼

port of both the nationally-known Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation and San Francisco's Community United Against Violence. He also helped to create company non-discrimination policies as a manager at Aramark.

On HIV/AIDS Bagi remarked, "We must look at the full implications of what it means to live with HIV/AIDS on an individual level and on a social level. We need to be realistic about human sexual behavior and the shortcomings of the safer sex message. We need to have dialogue groups that are culturally specific. Funding should be proportionate to risk groups especially as it pertains to communities of color. We also need to explore IV drug use among gay men to find out why the prevention message isn't reaching them the same way it is reaching straight IV drug users."

As someone who has been out of the closet since he was a sophomore in high school, Bagi believes that "today our greatest obstacle is not prejudice but the narrowness of our vision and shallowness of our motives."

"I have believed for some time that the next step in our quest for civil rights is to convey to our citizens just what it is we want our rights for. It goes beyond the desire for the picket fence existence and pursuit of profit. We, who have had our basic rights denied us for so long, have something to teach the rest of the country about the rights so many take for granted."

Nicholas Gaffney

Nicholas J. Gaffney, a registered Republican in District 5, provided very brief answers to the Bay Area Reporter's candidate survey.

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District 11

Candidates try to unseat incumbent

compiled by
Terry Beswick

The 11th District includes the Excelsior, Cayuga Terrace, the Outer Mission, Crocker Amazon, and New Mission Terrace neighborhoods, and three other residential areas on the western side of Interstate 280 known as the "OMI": Oceanview, Merced Heights, and Ingleside. Nine residents, including incumbent Supervisor Reverend Amos Brown, the candidate Mayor Willie Brown is supporting for mayor, are on the ballot; three responded to the *Bay Area Reporter* questionnaire.

Steven R. Currier

The only openly gay candidate running for supervisor from District 11, Steven R. Currier co-founded the Outer Missions Residents Association a few years ago and has served since as its president. He is also chairperson of the Crocker Amazon Park Advisory Council, along with several other community advisory groups.

But Currier is most interested in fighting battles that affect all residents of the district, and the city at large, he said.



Rick Gerhardt

He proposes "housing in transit-congested areas, such as the Balboa Park BART station. I started proposing this issue in June of 1998. I believe, that within five years, we will see plans for a transit village at this site.

"I would like to see nonprofit agencies who get funding from the city provide more in the way of educating, housing, feeding, and finding jobs for persons or families that are homeless," he said.

Currier wants a moratorium on building, he said, particularly commercial office spaces in the Mission, Bayview-Hunters Point, and in industrial protection zones. "At this time, building is happening too fast and the public, especially in neighborhoods not well served by public transit, is not being heard. The Planning Department, Planning Commission, and the mayor's office, along with the Board of Supervisors, should step back and take a look at what is going on with the make-up of San Francisco."

A homeowner, Currier said he "will work with any and all people to make this district and this city a better place to live."

"San Francisco should address the problem by boosting up the housing stock and look into a universal health plan for its citizens," Currier said, adding that he does not support the mayor's record on dealing with homeless problem in

the city.

Carlos Petroni

Self-identified as "straight," candidate Carlos Petroni supports "full legislation protecting LGBT rights" and has fought transphobia and homophobia as part of a campaign "for the right of LGBT artists to showcase their work without being harassed."

Refreshingly, Petroni is one of the few leftists in San Francisco who is out about being a socialist.

A member of the National Committee of Socialist Alternatives, Petroni said the two main issues facing his district are "political representation," and "[Supervisor] Amos Brown."

To deal within the first quandary, he wants an elected neighborhood council in District 10 with "power over budget, zoning, and economic development."

As for Brown, "the homophobic, mean-spirited, anti-poor, anti-tenant, incumbent member of [Mayor] Willie Brown's political machine," Petroni asserted that the "solution" to the "problem" has already been achieved.

"He already lost his re-election bid," he wrote.



Rick Gerhardt

To solve the city's entrenched housing problems, he would redefine affordable housing "as the housing that allows low-income, people of color, and working families to live in the city," massive identification of land to build affordable housing, "investment in a massive housing plan" with money provided by progressive taxation "over downtown big businesses," and "protect and enhance rent control," and "declare a housing emergency to allow the city to circumvent state laws such as the Ellis Act," and, finally, "pass legislation for commercial rent control."

Rebecca Silverberg

Also heterosexual, Rebecca Silverberg is a member of the Alice B. Toklas Lesbian and Gay Democratic Club "because

I want to learn about the issues facing my fellow San Franciscans and so that I can participate actively in the movement to eradicate bias based on sexual orientation."

Silverberg, who says she is retiring on her 55th birthday this January "to serve as a full-time supervisor," said that the "economic decline of the Geneva, Mission,



Rick Gerhardt

Ocean commercial corridor if the single issue that affects all of District 11. It lowers our property values, turns our neighborhoods into eyesores, is a fertile ground for crime, especially drug-dealing, forces us to shop in nearby Daly City, thus taking tax revenue out of our city and adding to traffic congestion, and generally leads to depression of our surrounding neighborhoods."

To help businesses, the candidate would fund each commercial area with "about \$5,000 a year for a neighborhood newspaper," among other proposals.

Silverberg has been an activist on housing issues and said that she supports Supervisor Mark Leno's proposals for increased housing density along transit corridors.

"I don't know of any 'immediate' solutions for affordable housing unless it be the Presidio or Treasure Island," she said. "However, I would prefer to preserve these two highly desirable settings for use by the public."

She said that she would link approval of the budgets for the Department of Public Health "to their HIV prevention efforts because their current non-aggressive efforts are partly to blame for their higher operating expenses. They need to do more community outreach, too. HIV is a city-wide problem, not just a Castro Street issue." ▼

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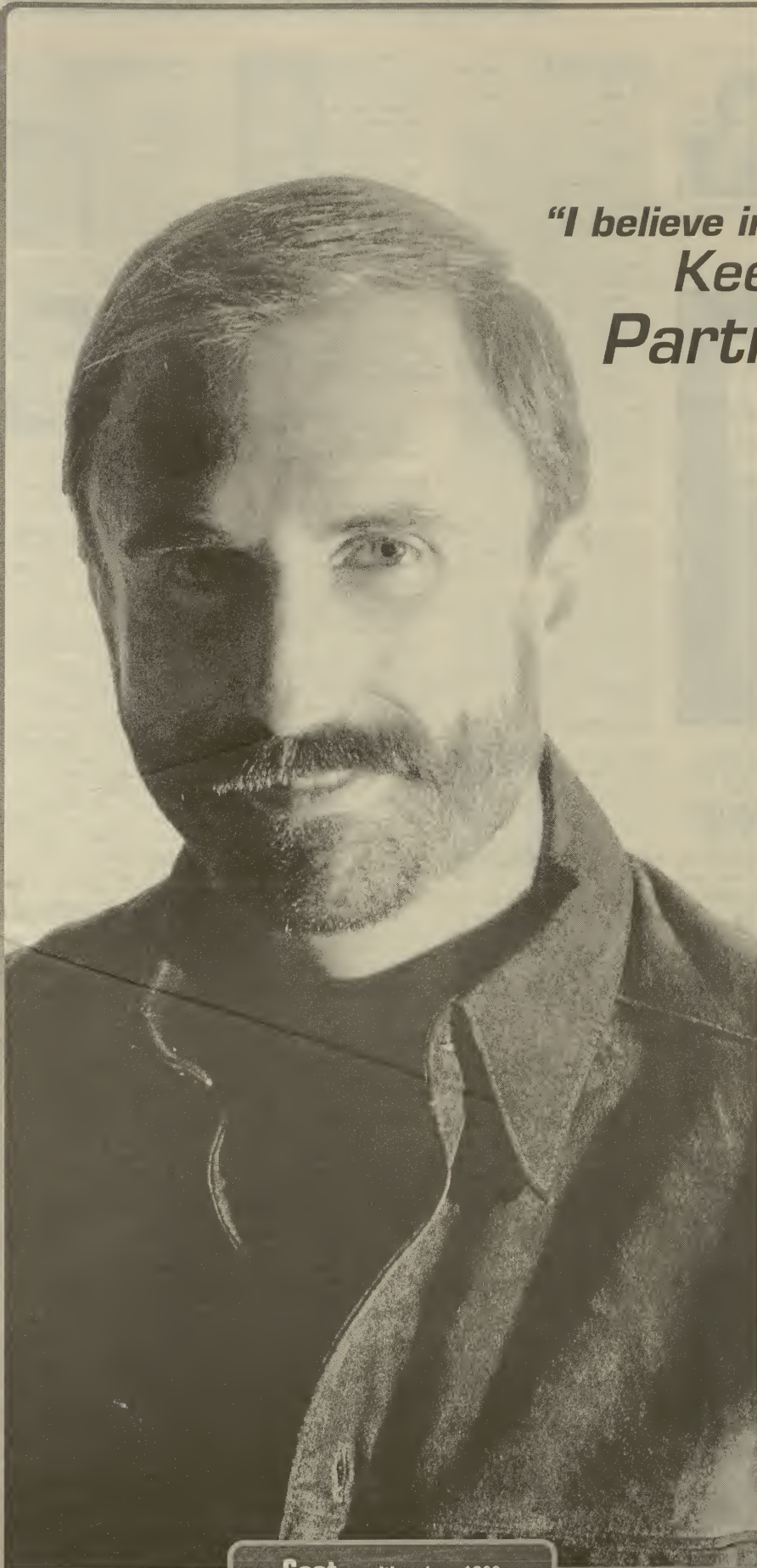
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District 5

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On the issue of combating homo/trans phobia, Gaffney replied, "I have many gay friends and I love them and seek their guidance in learning about the issues." Gaffney also attends Glide Memorial Church.

His political beliefs emphasize "less... not more" government, so questions like "How would you create more immediate affordable housing in San Francisco?" are answered with "I'm not sure you can."

Gaffney also said that as long as "the free market continues to create jobs," the city's economic upswing should take care of itself. But he does want to support grassroots groups with "time and money" to encourage neighborhood character preservation.

The services most needed in District 5, he says, are police, traffic enforcement, and "basically everything."

"The city is a mess," stated Gaffney, who wants an independent audit of public services so that residents can get their tax dollars worth.

Gaffney doesn't know how he would address the health department's HIV prevention efforts, but he wants the LGBT community to know that "I believe all San Franciscans should be treated with love and respect."

Matt Gonzalez

He took last year's district attorney's race by storm, splitting the progressive vote and offering an alternative to the city's status quo. The surprise force to be reckoned with hasn't given up on change, which is why many gay voters still stand behind the openly heterosexual Matt Gonzalez, who recently moved into District 5 after being evicted from his residence in the ever-gentrifying Mission.

Gonzalez, 35, has been a public defender in San Francisco since 1991, and is known for his tireless work on behalf of clients who normally would not get a fair trial due to their backgrounds or economic situations. He is a lifelong Democrat who has been active in the Harvey Milk LGBT Democratic Club and served on the board of Intersection for the Arts, and his campaign boasts several LGBT activists in leadership roles.

The candidate said the most pressing issues in District 5 are low-cost housing and healthcare, and he supports full funding of San Francisco General Hospital, believing that cutting psychiatric beds at the facility is "short-sighted."

"Cutting the budget looks good on paper, but will not make the mentally ill vanish; it will only move them to jails and street corners," said Gonzalez, who recognizes that his district has more social services than any other district and that many residents have recently opposed anything further. But he emphasized that the services that do work deserve support, and a standard procedure of accountability is needed to "measure the impact social services have on the community."

On the housing issue, Gonzalez said he supports "smart growth" among major transit corridors. He also advocates for stronger renter protections and the development of co-ops to increase home ownership for tenants.

"There is no magic formula

that will create a significant amount of affordable housing immediately," said Gonzalez. Public housing sites, he said, are drastically under-used, and the city's sole reliance on HUD funding for these developments is one problem he will address.

To continue the economic upswing while maintaining the character of neighborhoods, Gonzalez proposes better planning, through district planning councils instead of City Hall. He also supports Proposition L, which would curtail large developments in targeted areas.

On HIV prevention efforts, Gonzalez's first priority is asking for "an accounting of the \$16 million spent each year on prevention in San Francisco."

"I would insist that the money be spent where the rise in incidence is occurring," he said. "Second, I would insist on performance audits of all contracts for prevention."

Gonzalez would like the LGBT community to know that he has "an abiding conviction in the rights of the underprivileged and marginalized communities. Being of Mexican American descent in McAllen, Texas, taught me well how to deal with the political realities that prevail."

"I am proud," he said, "that I spent so many years serving to protect some of the most needy individuals in society."

Agar Jaicks

Agar Jaicks is not your run-of-the-mill heterosexual. The left-leaning Democrat has been involved in the fight against homophobia and transphobia for decades, and even served on the LGBT committee of the San Francisco Human Rights Commission.

The most pressing issues facing District 5, said Jaicks, are housing and homelessness, and these problems need state and federal funding as well as programs with a system of accountability. He would like to have a working Homeless Commission to help distribute the city's funds and monitor how they are used. He would also like to change building codes along transit corridors to add two stories to existing commercial structures, and increase developers' affordable housing fees. And, like many people fed up with the city's utter disregard for community concerns, Jaicks believes that "the Planning Department needs to be overhauled."

Jaicks said the district is in dire need of a bank on upper and lower Haight Street, busses that end in the Western Addition, bike lanes from Baker to Scott streets, public toilets, and secure drop-offs for household toxic waste.

To continue the city's economic upswing, Jaicks would like to add protections to small businesses against chain stores and simply educate small business owners about the tax credits available to them. He would also push the idea that banks should bid for city business, which could add up to millions of dollars saved for city neighborhoods.

Other issues he would address are healthcare funding and the "transit first" policy so that it "works as it names indicates."

"Restoring funds for both health care and transit are high on my list of priorities," said Jaicks.

On HIV prevention, Jaicks would of course like to know what is happening to DPH's \$850 million annual budget, and proposes prevention through neighbor-

hood-specific associations.

Jaicks, with his long history in public service and equally long endorsement list, says he wants the LGBT community to know that "I have been a partner in the LGBT community for 35 years in their struggle against oppression and for equality."

"I have been a friend to labor, minority communities, and those most in need during my years of community service."

Juanita Owens

No stranger to politics, San Francisco school board member Juanita Owens counts reviving and revamping the city's queer youth protections as one of her achievements for LGBT people while in public service. Including marginalized populations within any platform is an historical theme of hers, as she did for lesbians and bisexuals at the Commission on the Status of Women, as well as for women and lesbians when she served on the Police Commission.

But the openly lesbian Owens, 54, thinks her district faces broader problems, and counts transportation, homelessness, and housing as the three issues most important to District 5.

"Crowded buses heading to downtown... arrive in District 5 already full of commuters," said Owens, who proposes more bus lines in the district that originate nearer to the center of town.

On the housing issue, Owens proposes increased funding for programs that help people out of homelessness, such as detox, mental health counseling, and child care.

"The mark of how well we as a city are doing in these times of economic prosperity should be measured by how well we take care of those who most need our help," she said. Owens also emphasized the need for long-term planning to ease the renter's crisis, by harnessing the economic boom to "make the cash-rich companies that want to locate here, ante up for housing."

"If new businesses are creating jobs," she said, "then they need to help develop new housing."

Owens also proposes legislation to reward good business practices, and wants to see an incentive program for small, struggling, and local businesses. She promises to "fight the placement of inappropriate chain stores in any neighborhood." She said she believes in community input and will hold monthly meetings in her district to hear all concerns.

A priority of hers as a government official will be public health, she said.

"I won't say that our health department is doing a bad job," she said. "But I do think they face some real challenges in delivering health care to those most in need."

Owens wants to encourage nonprofit hospitals to give more free and low-cost care.

On HIV/AIDS prevention, Owens embraces a plan to encourage communication among sero-discordant couples. She also wants to confront crystal meth use in the community and examine how drugs play a role in increased risk-taking.

Owens said she wants the LGBT community to know that "I work hard, I get things done, and I don't make decisions in a vacuum."

"As a supervisor I will continue to be an advocate for our community, our issues, and for the entire city." ▼



Rick Gerner

OBITUARIES

Theodore Howard Bivans
September 12, 1927 —
October 1, 2000



Ted died Sunday, October 1, at age 73. He lost an 18-month battle to Parkinson's disease. He is survived by his domestic partner, Jean-Claude Kamins, with whom Ted shared his life for 48 years.

Ted had no problem making friends, and like most people, he wanted to be liked, and he was.

As per his will, Ted's remains were cremated, and his ashes shipped to Alvin, Illinois, to be interred in his parents' grave.

Ted, I will carry your legacy, and remember and live by what I learned from you.

Bob Holden
March 1945 — 2000

It is with great sadness that we report the passing of our League member and dear friend and supporter, Bob



Holden. After a long illness, he passed peacefully at St. Vincent's Hospital in Glendale.

A member of our League for over twenty years, Bob was a high performer and a fierce competitor. For many years, he held the record for Championship Team titles at a seemingly insurmountable total of fifteen! His ability to digest, analyze and retain statistical information was remarkable. As a former League Historian and member of the Board of Governors, his guidance and sense of continuity provided stability and order in an ever-changing League landscape.

His mind was always intellectually active. His knowledge of the motion picture, entertainment and sports world was exceptional, and he was a rare combination of book and street smart.

He is survived by Steve Montgomery, his partner of 24 years, and a host of friends. His spirit, sense of humor and positive outlook will be sorely missed. He becomes a part of our fondest memories.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be

made to the American Cancer Society and Project Angel Food. A memorial service will be held at the home of Steve Montgomery on Saturday, October 28th between the hours of 2 p.m. and 6 p.m.

OBITUARY POLICY

Obituaries must be typed and no longer than 200 words. Please follow normal rules of capitalization — and no poetry. We reserve the right to edit for style, clarity, grammar, and taste.

If you're submitting a photo of the deceased, write their name on the back. If you include a SASE for the photo's return, write the person's name on the inside of the envelope flap. All obituaries must include a contact name and phone number. They must be submitted within a year of the death.

Deadline for obituaries is Monday at 5 p.m., with the exception of special display ad obituaries, which must be submitted by Friday at 3 p.m.

Clift Hotel

◀ page 1

not have proper identification or a credit card.

"That's a lie," countered Davis. "They didn't even let me get that far."

An official with Rubenstein Associates, the Clift's publicity firm, also noted that "members of the same party ... were dressed inappropriately," and that staff instructions to change clothes were directed toward the women who entered with Rodman. But Davis and others said those women weren't even around when the drag-specific criticism flew.

"The hotel representative said

if he left and came back dressed as a man he could have a room," said Chris Hibbard, a friend who was with Davis as he attempted to check in. "I told him that was discrimination, and he said 'I'm aware of that, but that's my decision.'"

"It was quite shocking," Keri Windsor, co-host of *Rodman TV*, told the B.A.R. Windsor said that it wasn't until she actually retrieved Davis's wallet and identification from upstairs that the staff decided there were no more rooms. "The one guy was all set to give him the room once I got him his wallet, but the guy who previously said no stepped in to say there were no longer rooms available."

"I was embarrassed for Elaine," added Windsor, "for this to happen, of all places, in San Francisco."

What's most angering to Davis, he said, is that some of the Clift employees who denied him a room were themselves gay men. The Clift — which is managed by Ian Schrager Hotels, as in the Ian Schrager who created the gay mecca Studio 54 in New York — is indeed known for having a large gay staff.

"It saddens me," said Davis. "The gay community is always asking to be accepted but they aren't willing to bend and accept others. It's like they pass on the hate to give them some sense of belonging." ▼

Lawrence Wong

◀ page 1

Friday, October 20. "As a matter of fact, I'm the only gay Asian that is active in fighting for both the gay and Asian communities."

Wong, 51, was born and raised in Chinatown and moved to the Castro as an adult openly gay man.

"And then, once I got my feet wet, I went back to the Chinese American community," returning to his familial roots, he said, where he is running for supervisor from the district that includes Chinatown, North Beach, Telegraph Hill, Russian Hill, Fisherman's Wharf, and the commercial area.

"I never thought of myself as someone who would run for office," Wong said, recalling his unplanned launch into the world of electoral politics in the early 1990s. "It took me by surprise."

As an appointed member of former Mayor Frank Jordan's Human Rights Commission in 1993, it was an offhand remark from a fellow commissioner, the Reverend Eugene Lumpkin, that did the trick.

After Lumpkin suggested in an open hearing that he agreed with an Old Testament sentiment that queers should be stoned to death, Wong was the only commissioner to call for the homophobic Lumpkin's resignation, and was ousted from the commission by Jordan for publicly taking on the mayor, who was busy defusing the reverend's rights to "free speech."

Overnight, Wong was literally thrust onto center stage, speaking at rallies on the steps of City Hall and elsewhere.

By the time the dust settled, Jordan ended up firing Lumpkin from the commission as well, and

Wong's new life in politics had begun.

"People said, 'we need you, you're a great advocate,'" Wong said.

Straddling two cultures

As a member of numerous boards, political clubs, and commissions in San Francisco since the late 1980s, Wong has always managed to maintain his dual roles representing both Asians and gays, holding title to a number of "firsts" for both communities.

"I see myself as a human rights activist first and foremost," said Wong, who was on the steering committee for all three domestic partner campaigns in the early 1990s.

Currently employed by the 105-year-old Chinese American Citizens Alliance, he has served as the national group's first openly gay executive director since 1996.

And when he was first elected to the Community College Board six years ago, Wong noted, he also became the first openly gay Asian American elected official in the United States. He won re-election in 1998 with 102,000 votes city-wide, the third-highest vote-getter among all candidates.

On the community college board, he successfully fought against cuts to the college's gay and lesbian studies program, the only formal academic program of its kind in the country, as well as cuts to the colleges HIV counseling and testing program. He is also former member of the board of directors of the AIDS Emergency Fund.

District 3 is 54 percent Chinese American. It is not known how many of the residents are gay, lesbian, bisexual, or transgender, though the district also includes Polk Street, Wong noted.

Wong, who has been endorsed

by the Alice B. Toklas Lesbian and Gay Democratic Club as part of its "lavender wave," is frustrated that he was not endorsed by the Milk Club, suggesting that the club that named him Community Activist of the Year in 1992 has missed an opportunity to create a political link to the Chinese community.

Asked whether attitudes toward gays and lesbians are changing in the Chinese community, Wong said there's a lot of room for improvement, and hopes to make a difference in these attitudes that go back thousands of years as a member of the board.

"There's always people coming up who refuse to be enlightened," he said.

But Wong — with a platform focusing on access to universal health care, affordable housing, and disaster preparedness — wants to do more than help to advance the interests of gays within Asian communities, and the causes of Asian-Americans in the LGBT communities.

He wants to help broker solutions to the city's problems before they get on the ballot.

For example, Wong said he is opposed to both Propositions K and L. Mayor Willie Brown's and progressives' proposals for dealing with the raging commercial development and displacement of residents in the city, respectively.

"I think those propositions should not have been on the ballot," he said. Both campaigns "had the best interests of the city at heart," he said, but a better solution could have been developed by bringing all the parties to the bargaining table and forging a solution agreeable to all the stakeholders.

"But where was the Board of Supervisors?" he asked. "It could have been better handled." ▼



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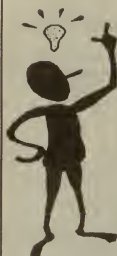
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District 8

◀ page 23

Mark Leno
GWM

seeks: another term. Mark Leno, an appointee of Mayor Willie Brown in April 1998, who was elected city-wide that November, has recently started to pull away from business as usual, authoring affordable housing legislation and working to preserve the character of the Castro without hindering the city's economic upswing. But it is his work for the LGBT community of which he is most proud: from passing a city resolution to denounce Dr. Laura Schlessinger, to taking a statewide role against the anti-gay Proposition 22, to developing the city's Transgender Civil Rights Implementation Task Force. It is his commitment to LGBT issues and his neighborhood, he said, that warrants his reelection.

A lifelong Democrat, Leno believes that "politics can be used to reshape and improve our world. As an out gay man and as a Jew, I know that we must remain ever vigilant and that the fight for equality of all people must be waged every day and by each generation."

Leno believes the most pressing issues facing his district are access to parks, homelessness, traffic and pedestrian safety, and of course, housing and so-called monster homes. He points to his recent legislation that he said will help create over a thousand new residential units each year, with a 12 percent affordability requirement.

To further the economy's boom, Leno would like to see profits re-invested in social services and transportation and money given to help small businesses. He also recently convened a meeting to study and address the challenges of the displacement that has gone hand-in-hand with San Francisco's growth.

"We need to ensure that our economic growth is balanced and well managed so that our quality of life is maintained," said Leno. "Small businesses and nonprofits are being displaced ... even our medical offices are feeling the squeeze."

He would like to see more open space in District 8, noting the current battle that focuses on off-leash dog exercise in public parks. He is also in favor of the queer youth shelter project at 2500 Market Street, and touts the fact that it will "be moving forward ... thanks to the hard work of many dedicated neighbors."

On HIV/AIDS prevention, Leno believes that programs must continually "update and revisit their message to ensure effectiveness." He proposes an end to HIV-glam advertising, and is concerned about chat rooms that encourage gay men to meet but "do nothing to promote HIV prevention," believing that the city can work with site managers to encourage safer sex dialogue.

The one thing Leno would like the LGBT community to know about him?

"That I'm single," he said.

Shawn O'Hearn

It's a running theme of Shawn O'Hearn's campaign and candidate survey: the utter



Marc Geller

disbelief that a city so plentiful with money can have such poor planning and so few resources.

O'Hearn, who was elected earlier this year to the Democratic Central Committee on a shoe-string budget and his reputation, is running his current race for District 8 supervisor in much the same way, emphasizing his independence and the need to seriously change city government.

"The question I always ask and every tax-paying citizen should ask is: How can a city with a \$4.5 billion annual budget—a city that is only 49 square miles and less than a million people—NOT have a public transportation system that works? Streets that are clean? Homeless people that are clothed, fed, etc.? My answer: no leadership. Everyone owes King Willie their job or some other favor. Not me."

O'Hearn, a lifelong Democrat who claims proud membership in both the Harvey Milk and Alice B. Toklas LGBT Democratic clubs, counts volunteering at Community United Against Violence and co-chairing the gay caucus of SEIU Local 790 labor union as other contributions to the LGBT community.

He believes the greatest issues facing his district and the city is the outright corruption of departments, created to regulate but transformed into agencies that must dedicate themselves to the mayor's mission. The Planning Commission is one such body, and O'Hearn pledged to get that department back to its roots by involving neighborhoods in major decisions. District 8's queer youth shelter is another issue, one that O'Hearn supports, but not at the expense of residential neighborhoods.

"Shelters are not appropriate in residential areas, period," said O'Hearn, who has advocated opening the queer youth shelter in the district's yet-to-be-completed LGBT community center, for various reasons.

For the rest of us during the housing crisis, O'Hearn proposes new legislation to re-evaluate zoning maps for density controls, ensure Planning Department accountability, and mandate affordable housing for developers' projects.

He believes the mayor's unchecked power has resulted in cheating the general public, and he would propose to revise the city charter to preclude the mayor from appointing supervisors.

"The voters deserve representation from someone they elect," said O'Hearn.

On HIV/AIDS prevention, O'Hearn is fed up.

"The Department of Public Health must work with sex clubs to provide private, locked spaces in sex venues that allow adult gay men the privacy and respect we deserve to make healthy sexual choices."

O'Hearn would like the LGBT community to know detailed arguments for all of his positions can be found on his Web page, www.ohearn4supervisor.com.

Gary Virginia

He may be an underdog candidate of District 8, but Gary Virginia has continued to wow constituents with his debate performance and detailed knowledge of the policies of San Francisco.

A former San Francisco Mr. Leather (1996), Virginia's contributions to the LGBT community include outreach to the leather,



Jane Philomen Cleland

bear, drag, and trans populations, as well as experience as a board member of the Positive Resource Center, the employment program for people with HIV/AIDS. If elected, Virginia would be the first openly HIV-positive person on the Board of Supervisors, and he says "I am proud to be an out gay man and person with AIDS so that I can help reduce homophobia and HIV/AIDS prejudice."

The nearly lifelong Democrat doesn't always vote along party lines and recently has identified more along the lines of a Green Party platform.

"My political philosophy is a passionate belief in government by the people and for the people," said Virginia, who believes that the most pressing issue facing his district and the entire city is a lack of "ethical, skilled leadership to address affordable housing and transit."

If elected, Virginia would immediately introduce legislation to remove barriers to the development of affordable units, support density housing incentives, and change the way parking is combined with housing. He would also encourage employer-assisted down-payment programs for new homeowners, legalize in-law units, and push for neighborhood-based planning. Since traffic congestion is out of control, Virginia proposes longer Muni hours, bicycle storage near transit hubs, electric car charge stations, and a 30th and Mission Street BART station. And noting the obvious poor planning on the part of City Hall (and citing a report in *Governing* magazine that gave the city a C+ for management), Virginia would also like to see the city charter revised so that vacancies to public departments are no longer filled by the mayor.

"This would better ensure a system of checks and balances," he said.

To include the entire community in city planning, Virginia proposes the creation of a District 8 community council and a comprehensive community plan that "would alert potential developers and businesses of the type and size of businesses we want and need. This would avoid costly time, money, and energy for all parties involved in disputes over development," said Virginia. "Issues such as chain stores and monster homes would be addressed in the context of their benefit versus liability to our quality of life. A district supervisor should bring all parties to the table."

To continue the city's economic upswing, Virginia wants to ensure that everyone has access to new technology, and would also like to build upon the Human Rights Commission's "economic empowerment" plan and create an LGBT-owned and -operated bank in the district.

On HIV/AIDS prevention, Virginia takes the matter quite personally, vowing to be a "passionate advocate" for prevention services that encourages and publicizes the quick HIV saliva test and mobile confidential testing units. He's also tired of glossy HIV-glam advertisements, and says, "No more fancy graphics or super athletes portraying survivors. It's time to do a reality campaign that hits hard and heavy."

The one thing Virginia would like the LGBT community to know about him is "I am passionate about ethics and have everyone's best interest at heart." ▼

Jim Provenzano's Sports Complex column will return next week.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Propositions

◀ page 6

quakes as examples. The system isn't broken; let's not try to fix it. Vote NO on Prop. 35.

Proposition 36 Vote YES Drugs, Probation, and Treatment Programs

The war on drugs has failed miserably in this country. This law would NOT extend to dealers or suppliers of drugs. How many more people do we need to incarcerate and how many more prisons do we need to build to house them? Because our prisons are overcrowded with people convicted for drug use/possession, we are allowing more felons of violent crimes out on parole. It costs over \$25,000 per prisoner per year to incarcerate them. Drug treatment programs are cheaper, from \$6,000 to \$10,000 per person per year. This would free up space in our prisons for more violent criminals. Some of these people convicted of non-violent, drug-related crimes may be affected under the "three strikes" law and be given mandatory life sentences. Let's work on the suppliers and dealers, not the users. Vote YES on Prop. 36.

Proposition 37 Vote NO Fees, Voter Requirements, Taxes

This is another attempt to hobble city and county governments from exercising what we elect politicians to do: make laws and collect taxes. User fees are a necessary form of taxation in our modern society. When our elected officials step out of line, the electorate responds quite vocally. By voting a 2/3 majority of voters mandate, we can effectively bring city and county services to a halt. The trouble with signature initiatives

like this one is that you don't know who is actually behind them. Don't stop necessary services in your community. Vote NO on Prop. 37.

Proposition 38 Vote NO School Vouchers

If you want to erode the public school system even further then this proposition is for you. The solution is not school vouchers; the solution is better pay for credentialed teachers, more money to fund better schools, smaller classes, and a safer environment. There are no guarantees for better education in this proposal, just \$4,000 a year to a great unknown new experiment. Better still, get behind school bond issues and talk to our teachers. Most educators are stressed out, but still do an incredible job under some of the harshest working conditions. California schools are addressing an ever-expanding school population without an end in sight. California's schools could rank among the best in the country, if you are willing to help them. Remember, it was Prop. 13, another signature-derived initiative, that abandoned our schools in the first place. Vote NO on Prop. 38.

Proposition 39 Vote NO School Facilities, 55% Local Vote Bonds

When Prop. 13 passed with a majority-only vote, it gutted our schools. We don't see this initiative as a savings boon. We can see increases in property taxes coming as a result of it; and no matter how the initiative is worded, if schools expand too rapidly, it's going to cost many more millions of dollars in taxes to support same. In the last few years, we have voted for millions of dollars in school bond measures with a 2/3 vote. Let's give these bonds a chance to work. Vote NO on Prop. 39. ▼

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Main Requirements:

- Men and non-pregnant women 18 years and older.
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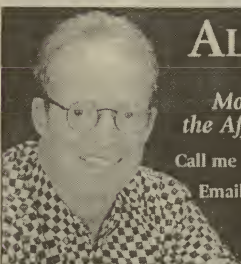
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LEGAL NOTICES

STATEMENT FILE NO.244254

The following person(s) are doing business as Rude Mountain, Rude Mountain, Rude Mountain Copy. 3119 20th Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94110. This business is conducted by a corporation signed Morgan Sowden. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, 09/01/2000. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 10/17/00.

OCT. 26, NOV. 2, 9, 16, 2000

STATEMENT FILE NO.243849

The following person(s) are doing business as Fastech Auto Glass. 340 Fell Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94102. This business is conducted by an individual signed Jacky K. Fong. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, 09/29/2000. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 10/29/00.

OCT. 26, NOV. 2, 9, 16, 2000

STATEMENT FILE NO. 316038

In The Superior Court Of The State Of California In And For The County Of San Francisco. In the matter of the Application of Greg Allen Rosscup. For Change of Name. The application of Greg Allen Rosscup, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application proposing that his name be changed to Garrett Ross. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons before this Court in Department 218 on the 7th day of December 2000, at 9:00 o'clock AM, of said day to show cause way the application for change of name should not be granted.

OCT. 26, NOV. 2, 9, 16, 2000

STATEMENT FILE NO.244348

The following person(s) are doing business as Los Jarritos Restaurant. 901 South Van Ness Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94110. This business is conducted by an individual signed Dolores P. Reyes. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, 10/19/2000. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 10/20/00.

OCT. 26, NOV. 2, 9, 16, 2000

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E-47

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E-46

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long range planning for the C(4), the C(3), and the Political Action
Committee components; represent the organization at the state legislature;
manage media and press relations; and direct and coordinate all community
advocacy, public relations, and communications activities of AHRF. The
Executive Director will be responsible for all executive management for the
organization. This will include staff support to the Board of Directors and its
committees, as well as long range planning and budgeting.

Skill and Educational Requirements: Minimum of four years experience in
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LEGAL NOTICES

STATEMENT FILE NO. 243876

The following person(s) are doing business as Kevin Studios, 468 Hickory Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94102. This business is conducted by an individual signed Kevin Scott Soderlund. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, 05/15/00. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 10/02/00. OCT. 5, 12, 19, 26, 2000

STATEMENT FILE NO. 243773

The following person(s) are doing business as Sarita Stuff, 1215 Castro Street Apt. #1, San Francisco, Ca. 94114. This business is conducted by an individual signed Sarah Reynolds. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, 09/26/00. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 09/26/00. OCT. 5, 12, 19, 26, 2000

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME FILE NO. 215087

The following person (persons) have abandoned the use of the fictitious business name known as: Pacific Coast Mat & Matting Co. Located at: 2060 Cesar Chavez Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94124. The fictitious business name referred to above was filed in the County of San Francisco on: 6/23/97. This business was conducted by an individual signed Alfred Lieberman. SEPT. 28, OCT. 5, 12, 19, 2000

STATEMENT FILE NO. 315542

In The Superior Court Of The State Of California In And For The County Of San Francisco. In the matter of the Application of Kevin G. Connolly. For Change of Name. The application of Kevin G. Connolly, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application proposing that his name be changed to Kevin Gerard Connolly-Arce. Now, therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons before this Court in Department 218 on the 4th day of December 2000, at 9:00 o'clock AM, of said day to show cause way the application for change of name should not be granted. OCTOBER 5, 12, 19, 26, 2000

STATEMENT FILE NO. 315543

In The Superior Court Of The State Of California In And For The County Of San Francisco. In the matter of the Application of Richard Raul Gonzales. For Change of Name. The application of Ricard Raul Gonzales, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application proposing that his name be changed to Ric Connolly-Arce. Now, therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons before this Court in Department 218 on the 4th day of December 2000, at 9:00 o'clock AM, of said day to show cause way the application for change of name should not be granted. OCTOBER 5, 12, 19, 26, 2000

STATEMENT FILE NO. 244007

The following person(s) are doing business as Tangent Records, 743 Wisconsin Street #Y, San Francisco, Ca. 94107. This business is conducted by an individual signed Anna K. Karney. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 10/06/00. OCT. 12, 19, 26, NOV 2, 2000

STATEMENT FILE NO. 243404

The following person(s) are doing business as LEMS, 725 Florida Street #15, San Francisco, Ca. 94116. This business is conducted by an individual signed Andrew Cohen. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, 9/11/00. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 09/11/00. OCT. 12, 19, 26, NOV 2, 2000

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME FILE NO. 211197

The following person (persons) have abandoned the use of the fictitious business name known as: Handy Juan. Located at: 1720 48th Avenue, San Francisco, Ca. 94122. The fictitious business name referred to above was filed in the County of San Francisco on: 2/03/97. This business was conducted by an individual signed Estela de Leon. OCT. 19, 26, NOV. 2, 9, 2000

STATEMENT FILE NO. 244165

The following person(s) are doing business as Stella's Painting, 1720 48th Avenue, San Francisco, Ca. 94122. This business is conducted by an individual signed Estela de Leon. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, N/A-pending license (state). The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 10/13/00. OCT. 19, 26, NOV. 2, 9, 2000

STATEMENT FILE NO. 244115

The following person(s) are doing business as Wing Kee Foodstuff Company, 22 Dwight Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94134. This business is conducted by an individual signed Ping Lau Kwan. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, 10/11/2000. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 10/11/00. OCT. 19, 26, NOV. 2, 9, 2000

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF SAN FRANCISCO CA. NO 315966

In the Matter of the Application of Elizabeth Ann Jensen For Change of Name, the application of Elizabeth Ann Jensen for change of name... having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Elizabeth Ann Jensen has filed an application proposing that name be changed to Elizabeth Ann Ryan. Now, therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 19th day of December, 2000 at 9:00 o'clock am, of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted. OCT. 26, NOV. 2, 9, 16, 2000

STATEMENT FILE NO. 244354

The following person(s) are doing business as Fulton and Baker Laundry, 1498 Fulton Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94117. This business is conducted by husband and wife signed John Stuart Fernandez and Celeste Aguirre-Fernandez. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 10/23/00. OCT. 26, NOV. 2, 9, 16, 2000

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"BAREBACKING"

More Than Just a Fuck

If you're out there at all, you know that guys in San Francisco are fucking a lot more without condoms. And some of the time, it's with guys whose HIV status they don't know. Recent studies have shown the same thing. And the same studies show the HIV rate is up, as well.

You could say this is the "new epidemic." HIV is on the rise. We've changed the way we fuck. **But what's so "new" about HIV and fucking?**

Fucking without condoms has always felt better. And some of us have always enjoyed fucking with lots of different guys. Those things haven't changed. And they're probably not going to. But in the last few years, "barebacking" has really taken off.

Barebacking can hardly be news. For years now, every gay paper has had stories about barebacking. We all have our own stories, too. "I was planning to fuck, but I decided to bareback."

But there's something about barebacking that's different from the fucking we used to do. *Barebacking is different.*

In the last few years gay men have gotten serious about the right to fuck without condoms. After all, practically every straight guy in the world gets to do it without being told they are irresponsible, foolish, suicidal, or homicidal. A lot of guys think we should have the same right. *Barebacking is a right.*

Other things have changed, too. We've gotten fed up with the worry, and the fear, and the guilt. And some of us who've been feeling sick are feeling a lot better



these days. Viral loads are down, and we just don't see all the sickness and pain we used to in the Castro. A lot of us are feeling liberated from AIDS. *Barebacking is liberation.*

Over the years HIV prevention has lagged behind the times. "Use a condom every time" got old after a while. It wasn't terribly helpful. Staying healthy is harder than that. So now some of us bareback to send a message. To say, "fuck you" to the condom police. *Barebacking is defiance.*

Raw fucking is great, too. It feels better than latex, and it's easy to get used to. It's exciting to break the rules. It's intimate to take his cum inside. It's connecting to have nothing between you and him. At least for a while it breaks through the anonymity and isolation. *Barebacking is satisfying.*

But between a poz guy and neg guy, barebacking is also the easiest way to transmit HIV.

Barebacking can feel like nothing else on the planet. But when it leads to HIV, it's devastating.

So how do we bareback and take care of ourselves and each other? Is it too much to think this is possible? Is this what we want? Is this what you want?

If we're going to bareback, can we do it without fucking over everything else?

Barebacking is more than just a fuck.

What do you think? Email your thoughts: gaylife@sfaf.org

Look for us here. We'll look at more issues. Let's keep talking about what's really going on.

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Warren Sonbert revived at SFMOMA
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while his own films were hard to see.

page 41

A niche all his own
Bruce Vilanch — a
comic without pretenses.

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'Down there' with Eve
Ms. Ensler connects with
everyone via vaginas.

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 30 • No. 43 • 26 October 2000

Life and loss after MTV

by Web
Behrens



Judd Winick remembers Pedro Zamora for queer youth

It's not often that a 30-year-old heterosexual man commands the rapt attention of the 14- to 23-year-olds in a queer youth group. But of course, this is no ordinary man.

"My name is Judd Winick. Six years

ago, I was on *The Real World/San Francisco*." With that, the affable, handsome guy launches into his talk, and all the kids — about 50 of them gathered at Chicago's Horizons Community Center one late-September evening — listen intently. After all, he's one of the earliest celebrities of the "reality TV" genre. They call him Judd, like he's an old friend (appearing in someone's home regularly will have that effect) because he was part of the engaging cast from the third season of MTV's *The Real World*. For six months in 1994, Judd shared a bedroom with Pedro Zamora, who at 22 lived with AIDS in front of a slew of cameras, sharing his every day with the nation, opening up all aspects of himself: as a Cuban immigrant, as a man who married another man, as an AIDS educator.

Six years later, Winick is doing the educating, doing what Pedro cannot do. Pedro died in November 1994, the morning after the final episode aired. After a long healing process, last month Winick, a cartoonist, fulfilled a commitment to the man he viewed as a brother, with the publication of *Pedro and Me* (Henry Holt, \$15). "I promised him personally, 'People will never forget you,'" Winick remembers. By living up to the book's powerful subtitle, *Friendship, Loss*

and *What I Learned*, he has more than made good on his word. Now Pedro lives on not just in memories and syndicated reruns, but in this very moving work: part memoir, part AIDS education plan, part pop-culture reality check. For example, Winick reveals how sick Pedro really was as the show went on, and how he and fellow housemate Pam Ling (now a doctor and Winick's fiancée) helped Pedro conceal his illness from the cameras because he didn't want to be viewed as "the sickly AIDS boy."

Unreal world

True to his artistic roots — he's been cartooning professionally since college, and now writes *Green Lantern* for DC Comics — Winick put all of his talent for visual arts as well as words into *Pedro and Me*, which he describes as "a long-form comic book." From a book perspective, it's very well-structured: Winick smartly contrasts his childhood with Pedro's in the early chapters, then brings them both together in their MTV house; but he never mistakes *The Real World* as more than a setting for their story, which keeps the book accessible to those who never saw the show. From a comic perspective, it's very well-designed: The layout marries the prose and adds to its rhythm, while the illustrations tell the tale too, intensifying the impact. It's one thing to read about the shingles that covered half of Pedro's face, or all the weight he lost as he became sicker; it's quite another to see it.

"People tell me, 'I was really surprised by how good this is. I actually forgot I was looking at pictures,'" Winick says. It might be hard to imagine someone who starred on a reality TV show to have a modest side, but Winick clearly does, giving all props for the book to his friend: "I think it's [that good] because of Pedro. His story is very

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Ken Probst

The universal voice

In the five years since Ian Bostridge embarked on a full-time singing career, he has become the world's most sought-after lyric tenor in the art song repertoire. With a voice, intelligence and sensitivity that guide his expression straight to the heart, he has received numerous awards for his performances and recordings.

Bostridge studied philosophy and history at Cambridge and Oxford, and wrote his Ph.D. dissertation on witchcraft. At the same time, he found himself increasingly drawn to singing, winning Great Britain's 1991 National Federation of Music Societies/Esso Award. Keeping one foot in the door of academia, he rewrote his dissertation into a book, and was correcting the proofs of *Witchcraft and its Transformations 1650-1750* as his singing career moved into full gear in 1995.

One listen to Bostridge's 1996 Gramophone Solo Vocal Award-winning recording of Franz Schubert's song cycle, *Die schöne Müllerin*, reveals what so rapidly brought the tenor to international attention. The voice is irresistibly fresh and youthful, combining a fragile innocence (reflected in Bostridge's wan countenance) with a power of declamation that conveys the young miller's

pain over his failed love affair.

Schubert's song cycle addresses issues important to Bostridge. As he explained in a phone interview last week between performances in Los

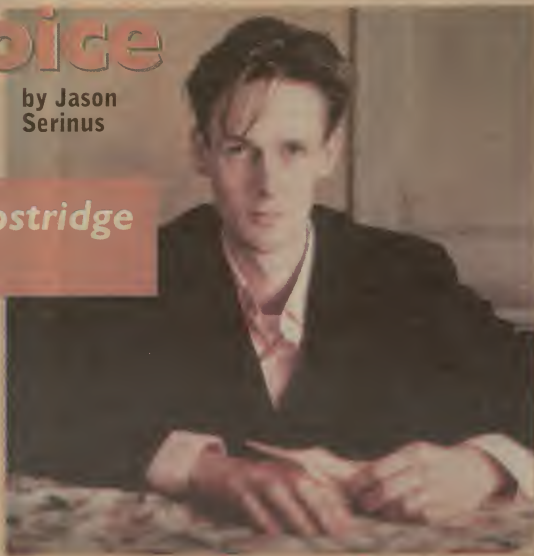
Lyric tenor Ian Bostridge sings in Berkeley

Angeles and Orange County, "I wish to share universal concerns about why we're here, and our anxieties about life and the passing of time and our emotional life ... love lost. While there is a degree of celebration in the lieder repertoire, it's mainly a way of coping with the big things in life. [The great lieder composers] have an incredibly powerful way of treating life and death, love and loss. I don't think they've been treated in a more powerful way."

As attendees of Bostridge's 1998 UC recital of Robert Schumann's *Dichterliebe* cycle (available


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by Jason
Serinus



David Thompson

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EVE ENSLER

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All hands on deck: The streets are alive with the sound of rumors about the upcoming *New Year's Blowout* on the SS *Poseidon* at the Castro Theatre. When last we wrote (prematurely), event producer **Hostess Huestis** had snagged the glam duo of stellar **Stella (Stevens)** and cool **Carol (Lynley)** for his seasick X-travaganza.

Now, however, the buzz is that the one-and-only star **Shelley Winters** might be coming on-board. "A distinct possibility," intimates Huestis in his inscrutable way. "I have been talking to her personal assistant, and there is interest in Ms. Winters attending."

Of course, it's hard to get a firm commitment from Miss Shelley, who recently dished even our Commander-in-Chief himself. Out There has learned that **Bill "Bubba" Clinton** and crew recently screened *The Poseidon Adventure* aboard Air Force One. Big Bill was so impressed by the Shell (who was his mother's fave star) that the two-term, two-timing prez called up the two-time Oscar-winner. Well, faster than you could say **Monica**, Winters said, "Mr. President, I have to get off the phone to go to the baaattth-hhrooom," and hung up.

Winters' personal assistant has suggested that she will participate in the Castro pageant, but we'll be holding our breath as to whether she'll show. Hostess Dearest enthuses, "They've agreed to at least do a phone greeting, although I hope she doesn't hang up on me!"

The other big news (although no one is bigger than our li'l old Shelley) is that **Maureen McGovern** is now scheduled to sing "The Morning After" as part of this glittering gala. And finally, debuting at this ultimate *Poseidon Event-ure* will be a washed-up water ballet from the **Synchronized Swimming Shelleys** with choreography by **Lulu**. Partial proceeds of the latest Huestis dog-and-pony show benefit PAWS.

The ship sets sail Thursday, December 28 at the Castro The-



Will Shelley Winters turn up for New Year's at the Castro Theater?

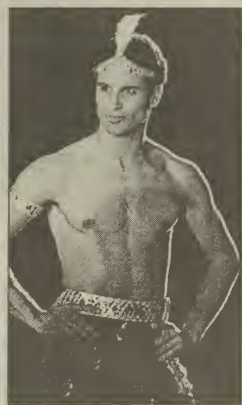
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Men in tights

Loved the feature in sizzling new dance mag *Pointe* about just what ballerinas keep in the fridge. There's a pic of the inside of Miami City Ballet principal **Deanna Seay's** icebox: squash, carrots, salad mix, granola bars, fat-free milk. Smoking gun: Nestlé semi-sweet morsels.

Of course, when we got our copy of the debut issue of *Pointe*, Out There thumbed immediately to the pages of "Latin Sizzle": "These dashing young men are turning ballet fans the world over into Latin lovers!" The feature came with a surprisingly vast assortment of pics of such ballet hotties as **José Manuel Carreño** and **Marcelo Gomez** of ABT, the former bare-chested with a feather-plume headdress, the latter with splayed thighs mid-air on pointe: *oui oui!* There's also a yummy shot of **Angel Corella** (ABT), and one which shows ABT's **Herman Cornejo's** arms, in a "King Tut" muscle-T, to good advantage.

Wait a minute, do you notice a



Dancer José Manuel Carreño

common theme here, spelled ABT? Where are all the Latin beauties of San Francisco Ballet? We know *Pointe* mag has a swank Manhattan address; but we can think of a few SFB discoveries they need to make, named **Gonzalo Garcia** and **Sergio Torrado**. Out There wouldn't mind rummaging through those guys' refrigerators!

All fall down

We met SF historian and author **Peter Wiley** at the top of Telegraph Hill, and along with him and a group of independent

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Down there on a visit

Playwright Eve Ensler
on her 'Vagina Monologues'

by Richard Dodds

Boys have always had much friendlier euphemisms for their genitals: peter, ding-a-ling, weenie. Girls were stuck with phrases like the slightly forbidding "down there" and the proscriptive "mustn't touch it." And let's not even get into the coarse slang names for vagina — words that make cock, dick, and pecker sound like variations on "have a nice day."

But with *The Vagina Monologues*, Eve Ensler has not only gone public with a show about this private part, but the show's success has brought the dialogue — and the word itself — into the mainstream press across the country.

"I feel like the vagina queens came down and said, 'You will serve.' And I was a good candidate," said the 47-year-old playwright whose political and social activism has informed all her plays, a passion spurred by her own physical and sexual abuse as a child.

Culled from Ensler's interviews with 200 women, *The Vagina Monologues* is made up of 16 first-person pieces that discuss a wide range of vaginal topics, from the celebratory to the horrific. With Ensler as its star, it opened off-Broadway in 1997. While that run continues with a revolving roster of celebrity performers, Ensler has set out on a national tour that will bring her to the Alcazar Theatre beginning Oct. 31.

Ensler had no experience as an actress when she first performed the diverse characters who deliver her monologues. But what she lacks in training, she said, she makes up for with an embracing empathy. "I feel deeply connected to those women because they told me their stories, and I try to love them every night," she said from Chicago, "and by loving them, to connect to them and allow them to say what they need to say."

These women range from a Long Island antiques dealer to a Bosnian refugee. Two of Ensler's subjects are lesbians, which have elicited a different response in Chicago than they generated in New York.

"Nothing is surprising in New York, which is such a gender-fluid place, but in the Midwest, I can feel the audiences really being scared when I start these particular monologues. I don't think a huge percentage of the audiences has been exposed to thinking about gay sexuality, and I think it's a really beautiful thing doing these pieces because I can feel their startledness but not their dislike. It's like, 'Oh, I get it. I never thought about this.'"

Gender balance

When she first started performing the show, the majority of audiences were predictably women. Now the balance is closer to 50-50, she says. "The straight men who come, if they get through the door of something called *The Vagina Monologues*, are pretty conscious men. Many men who come feel either really disturbed by what's happening to women or they feel excited and learn to become better lovers."

The gay men who come often



Eve Ensler in *The Vagina Monologues*

share in the outsider status that's inherent in a show that frankly discusses sexuality from a non-straight male perspective. "There are gay men who completely like *The Vagina Monologues* because it triggers something in their own sexuality, in their own way of seeing the world, in their relationship to gender and gender identity. And then there are gay men who think the whole thing's repulsive."

There are still some women who find the subject objectionable, including the female theater critic for one of Chicago's daily newspapers. "That was the only mean review I've ever gotten," Ensler said. "It was shocking. I assume she has issues, and I hope she gets over them. We have all been brought up in a terribly misogynistic culture, and I think some of us are more allied with the perpetrator because that's how we protect ourselves."

Ensler had her own struggles overcoming not only society's expectations but her first-hand experiences with a father who was both sexually and physically abusive. After escaping her seemingly ordinary suburban home as a teenager, she spent several years in a haze of drugs and alcohol before straightening herself out.

It's amazing that she has managed to sustain long-term relationships with men at all, including a marriage to the father of actor Dylan McDermott (whom she adopted) and her current ongoing relationship with a psychotherapist from Israel.

"I've gone back and forth throughout my life," she said. "I've loved women and men. I've been with one man for a while. I think it's because he's gone through a lot of the experiences I've been through. He has survived enormous sexual abuse from his own father, and I think because of that he has a sensitivity and a depth of understanding of women that a lot of men don't have. Because of that we have this deep bond. We've healed together."

Ending violence

Ensler's earlier plays have dealt with issues as diverse as nuclear disarmament, homelessness, and gay sexuality. "When I made a de-

cision three years ago that I was going to devote my life to ending violence toward women, my life's gotten very clear," she said. "I finally reached a point in my life where I realized that I can't do everything."

Her next project is titled *The Good Body*, which looks at "how women around the world transform their bodies in order to fit in with their culture." She's excited that the success of *The Vagina Monologues* will cause a brighter light to be cast on her newer works.

"It's wonderful to have a bigger audience," Ensler said. "It means that more people will listen when I talk about stopping rape or battery or mutilation. It's fabulous that after writing for 20 years people are interested in what I have to say."

And to think it all began with a casual comment a friend made about her vagina, an occasion that sent Ensler out on her life-changing exploration.

"In doing this piece I got closer and closer to my own vagina, meaning that I entered the center of my own sexuality," Ensler said. "That's a very complex place. It's always exploding and revealing something new and surprising. I think that's the state we would all live in if we were liberated." ▼

The Vagina Monologues will run at the Alcazar Theatre through Dec. 3. Tickets are \$30 - \$45. Call 433-9500.

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Love potion #9

San Francisco Opera's 'L'Elisir d'Amore'

by Stephanie von Buchau

The most wonderful opera performance I've ever heard was on October 21, 1967 at the San Francisco Opera. It was Lotfi Mansouri's production of Donizetti's *L'Elisir d'Amore*, starring Reri Grist, Alfredo Kraus, Ingvar Wixell and Sesto Bruscantini. The conductor was the late Giuseppe Patané, and the set designer was young Robert Darling, whose brightly-colored cut-outs managed to be both hilariously cartoonish and touchingly human.

Last Saturday night — October 21, coincidentally — SFO revived that production for the umpteenth time; the magic of 1967 has never repeated. Mansouri acknowledges his production, but it is now directed by Sandra Bernhard. The quaintly out-of-date sets have been "revised" by John Coyne, a new SFO practice that I hope stops when Mansouri leaves in July 2001. Either do it over, or leave it alone.

The sets are probably older than conductor Patrick Summers, who, despite his bel canto chops, could do little with a miscast tenor, or make the once sparkling, funny stage business look anything other than old and tired. The spaghetti-eating scene between Dulcamara (John Del Carlo) and Nemorino (Tito Beltran) may make the uninitiated wonder what all the fuss was about. Sorry, but I was there and I had a stitch in my side after Kraus and Bruscantini's "Obbligato, obbligato."

On the other hand, the one real voice and deep talent in the cast, soprano Rebecca Evans (Adina) responded beautifully to Summers' gentle, tender conducting of the opera's romantic numbers. When Adina realizes that she has been a bitch to Nemorino and really loves him after all, Summers and Evans made magic; there was some really aristocratic phrasing, softly tapered high notes and warm legato in her singing. I credit Summers for part of Evans' success, because she was clearly miscast last summer as Anne Trulove, a role that requires an heroic Donna Anna soprano, not a sweetly-tuned soubrette.

Of course, house size interferes once again. Summers wisely resisted banging or pounding as conductors often do in bel canto in the War Memorial Opera Barn. He had the orchestra at least attempting ornaments (not always successful in the prelude, but gaining confidence as the work proceeded), and the ensembles — especially the moving "Adina, credimi"



Larry Markle

Rodney Gilfry (Belcore) and Tito Beltran (Nemorino) in *L'Elisir d'Amore*.

in Act I — had an agreeable flexibility. My companion, whose first *Elisir* this was, was particularly taken by the way the composer writes for two, three or four voices. Credit the conductor for that, too.

Summers did the best he could with the men, but Beltran, Del Carlo and Rodney Gilfry (Sgt. Belcore) seemed to be from another planet. Beltran is a munchkin, who apparently compensates for lack of height with a booming tenor in the Mario Lanza mode — great for "Be My Love," not so hot for "Una furtiva lagrima," though I must say that his breath control was better than I had thought it would be. His bumptious, cutesy acting may go over in some places; in SFO, it is not very classy. As poorly as he sang last time we did *L'Elisir*, Jerry Hadley was a preferable Nemorino.

Gilfry is a real puzzle. The guy is tall, handsome, smart, and his shtick as the super-vain Belcore was amusing enough, particularly the little marching steps and pivots, which are probably extra-difficult to manage when you are singing Donizetti's tongue-twisting music. But the singing is the problem. I didn't like his Valentine (debut), I didn't like his vocal Stanley Kowalski (though he claims he didn't have anything to sing because Stanley is incoherent much of the time), and his Belcore was vocally bland when it wasn't

barked. He reminds me of Gino Quilico, a baritone who was elevated to Don Giovanni status because he was handsome, personable and could act, but his voice, like Gilfry's, was colorless, undistinguished and not very big.

As for Del Carlo, he's an old SFO favorite, but he is all shtick and no real voice. The barcarolle wasn't funny (Bruscantini's "Senator with three teeth," here inexplicably translated as "Senator Toothless," was side-splitting), and the duet where he acknowledges that Adina's "elixir" (her sparkling eyes) is more efficacious than his Bordeaux only had depth on her side. Del Carlo is certainly an agreeable performer, but he is definitely a Mansouri type — more Broadway than Milano.

I seldom have space to go on about the comprimarios, and they are often not worth going on about, but Donita Volkwin (an Adler Fellow from South Africa) displayed a very pretty, high quality soprano in the supporting part of Gianetta. With the international golf team, anchored by Ernie Els, blowing the President's Cup last weekend, Volkwin at least kept South Africa's flag flying. ▼

L'Elisir d'Amore continues in repertory through January 13, 2001. SF Opera box office: 864-3330.

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FILM

Fix on film

Warren Sonbert retrospective at SFMOMA

by Gary Morris

I had the privilege of sitting with Warren Sonbert (1947-1995) at some of San Francisco's press screenings in the several years that preceded his death at age 47 from AIDS. There was something inexpressibly charming in his furtive whispers under the film's dialogue — usually about how bad the film was. Sonbert was an old-school cinephile with wide knowledge of the field. He was also a formidable if failing presence, increasingly curdled by his disgust with the slick emptiness of what he had to review, but en-

gaged enough, at least until the last few times I saw him, to drop daggerlike digs *sotto voce*. Those last times were painful to watch — crouching, his hands shading his eyes as if to ward off the world, he was obviously living in his own grim melodrama that must have made any onscreen high jinks seem tame indeed.

I knew him as a local San Francisco curmudgeon and critic, hurling barbs against such targets as the International Lesbian and Gay Film Festival. I was also aware of his reputation as a master of avant garde cinema, but the films have always been hard to see, even by the subterranean standards of

underground film. Our repeated attempts to watch his films together failed, and that particular chance died with their maker. Maybe it was just as well; much of his work (he made 18 short films) needed restoration, and this is finally happening, making it easier to assess his achievement now that the films look the way he made them. In a two-month, eight-program series, SFMOMA is retrospectively both newly restored and rediscovered works, along with films by his colleagues and influences (Brakhage, Warhol, Hitchcock) and panel discussions.

Sonbert hated the dogmatism of labels, and he rejected the one most widely applied to him: diarist. This is indeed too limiting to contain the work, which is much more ambitious than random visual jottings on celluloid.

Sonbert was an avid globetrotter, never without a movie camera. Many of the films — *Friendly Witness* (1989) and *Whiplash* (1995) are two — draw on this footage, transforming his trips into heady collages of experience: brief, gorgeous, sometimes whimsical images of everything from a dog on a high wire to handsome Bedouin men cleaning a carpet in the desert. This impressionistic approach, punctuated by classical music or Motown (The Supremes' kitsch-poignant "Where Did Our Love Go" was a favorite), evokes a world of aching beauty and fleeting pleasure in a way that no linear narrative approach could. The



San Francisco avant-garde filmmaker Warren Sonbert in the 1960s.

films' short running times — most are in the 20- to 30-minute range, with only *Carriage Trade* (1972) approaching feature status — reinforce this sense of life as fleeting.

Faraway, so close

Friendly Witness presents a series of brief, evocative images of celebration, ritual, and the poetry of everyday life, filmed locally in San Francisco and in various faraway places, but particularly the Middle East. Structured around a series of classic rock and r&b songs, the film is a summing-up of Sonbert motifs and images, some new, some drawn from previous works. Couples embracing (a favorite motif), gay men at play, kids climbing a tesseract, fireworks, rodeos, and other timeless celebrations — these are some of the tableaux that make up this 20-minute film. Sonbert is constantly seeking connections and dispari-

ties, for example in an Egyptian sequence showing Mick Jagger in shadowy profile, and then cutting to the Sphinx.

Another scene shows a little girl in silhouette, swinging at twilight, then cuts to a massive grid of freeways that can be read as both a dehumanizing construct and evidence of a pattern imposed by humanity on a chaotic world. The joy of being human, alive, and the need to fix that joy on film (and thus make it real) are constant themes in works that limn a fresh, unpredictable world of pure experience. Sonbert's musical interests (he was an opera — and Motown — queen) were no doubt helpful in orchestrating his visual symphonies.

In spite of Sonbert's failure to suffer fools gladly or otherwise, films like *Friendly Witness* and *Whiplash* have a sense of acceptance and sheer generosity that

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Jack the archivist

'Sex, Drugs, and Mormons' at Yerba Buena Center

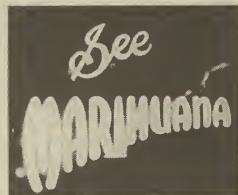
by Alex Robertson Textor

Film archivist, writer and film teacher Jack Stevenson will present two sets of films at the Yerba Buena Center for the Arts this weekend, under the series title of *Sex, Drugs, and Mormons: Two Nights with Jack Stevenson*.

On Friday, October 27 at 8 p.m., he will present a series of drug-scare films. On Saturday, October 28 at 8 p.m. he will present three short films by Mormon filmmaker Wetzel O. Whitaker. Stevenson's presentations coincide with the recent publication of two of his books: *Addicted: The Myth and Menace of Drugs in Film* (Creation Books) and *Fleshpot: Cinema's Sexual Myth Makers and Taboo Breakers* (Critical Visions).

Sex, Drugs, and Mormons showcases educational films intended to influence young audiences away from drug usage and sexual behavior deemed inappropriate. These films were not commercial vehicles; the Whitaker films were not made to be viewed outside of a Mormon cultural circuit.

Drugs in the Classroom, the Friday night drug-scare film set, features four films. The program includes David Parker's *LSD-25* (1967), Sid Davis' *LSD - Trip or Trap* (1967), Mel Marshall's *Narcotics: Pit of Despair* (1967) and *Marijuana* (1968), an educational film narrated by none other than Sonny Bono. These films have been shown with some regularity through the years at art-house theatres. They have a reputation for overstating their message, and



A scene from *Marijuana* — Weed with Roots in Hell

consequently have been widely lampooned.

The anti-drug films replay some of the most lurid dystopian fantasies of drug usage. In *LSD-25*, LSD users stare at the sun until they go blind. In *Marijuana*, a pot-smoker stares at himself in a mirror until his face turns into a rubber monster mask. Sonny Bono's question, "Why do ya think they call it dope?" from *Marijuana*, achieved near-legendary status among marijuana smokers in the 1970s. Bono seems like something of an ironic choice for narrator, especially given the widespread characterization of his voiceover as lethargic and drugged-out.

Missionary position

The *Sex and Mormons* portion of the series follows on Saturday night. The three highly melodramatic films in this series, *How Do I Love Thee?* (1970), *For Time or Eternity* (1970) and *Cipher in the Snow* (1973), share a pedagogical function with the anti-drug films, despite their different subject matter.

How Do I Love Thee? deals with

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Bostridge

◀ Arts cover

on a Gramophone award winning EMI CD) know, the tenor is a master of the alchemy of turning notes on the printed page into something that touches deeply. "I suppose that because I wasn't trained as a musician," Bostridge said, "I'm more aware of the sort of theatrical, non-musical elements of song: the performance elements of how you communicate with an audience that are not necessarily just in the music. The music is on the page, but in the end, there are things written into the music that you have to convey. That's something that composers have always been very aware of. Benjamin Britten wrote about it. There's a whole range of expression in the human voice that a composer can't write down, and you have to trust to the interpreter for that to come across. I'm also fascinated by how people use classical harmony to convey emotion. But a lot of the things that are miraculous in Schubert aren't really explicable in musical terms."

Britten on the wind

Mention of British homosexual composer Benjamin Britten led to a discussion of the tenor's many Britten recordings. Bostridge has just performed Britten's deeply moving *War Requiem* with conductor Anthony Pappano. After I praised Bostridge's performance on his *The Red Cockatoo* disc of early Britten songs, the tenor shared that "there's certainly some very fine stuff there, very different in Britten's output because it's written before the mature Britten style crystallized. There's a degree of more repression in Britten's later work. One of the most interesting things about Britten's mature songs is that they cover such a wide range of subject matter; they're not just about lost love or whatever. He has an incredibly imaginative approach to choosing poetic material."

"When Britten was in Auden's circle [in his younger years], in one sense his sexuality was more repressed, but on the other hand, he was mixing with more of a self-



Tenor Ian Bostridge following his 1998 Cal Performances debut.

consciously homosexual group of people, whereas later on he was much more isolated, and much more grand in a way. I don't know for certain, but his position in the 1950s was perhaps a more difficult one. He was living with Peter Pears, and in one sense pursuing an openly homosexual relationship, but it was illegal, and there is a story that there were forces who were quite keen to clamp down and lock them up. So maybe there was more repression in the '50s than in the '30s. I'm not really sure about it."

"Having said all that about his sexuality, I think one of the unfortunate diversions in Britten criticism is an overconcern with his sexuality, whereas in fact in the operas I think he's talking far more about universal issues of life and death," said Bostridge.

"I've recently been in a production of Britten's opera *A Turn of the Screw*, and a lot of the criticism of that opera focuses on it being somehow to do with Britten's obsession with children. It obviously in one sense is, but there's far more going on than that. He was a great artist; he wasn't just getting out his own anxieties by composing, I don't think."

Music-lovers have a number of

new Bostridge recordings to look forward to. Due next year are solo Bach arias with Europa Galante, Fabio Biondi conducting; and Handel's *L'Allegro, Il Penseroso ed Il Moderato* with openly gay countertenor David Daniels and others, John Nelson conducting. A 50-minute Hans Werner Henze song cycle written especially for Bostridge will be released in England in January, and Bostridge will record Mozart's *Idomeneo* in 2001.

But, as Bostridge revealed of the Schubert songs that will form part of his Sunday Berkeley recital, "I suppose Schubert speaks to me the deepest. It's Schubert's music I listen to most outside the repertoire I'm actually singing; his piano music and chamber music are very close to my heart. Schubert's *Winterreise* song cycle is to me the ultimate work that I perform. It's the work that ranks with the greatest in the operatic and symphonic repertoire." ▼

Bostridge's UC Berkeley Hertz Hall recital (Sun., Oct. 29, 3 p.m.) is sold out. Last-minute returned tickets may become available. Call (510) 642-9988, and arrive early with resolute intention.



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TELEVISION

Lost souls

by Victoria A. Brownworth

One can tell Halloween is just around the corner because TV is getting really scary. Not only were 17 recruits blown up on the USS Cole in Yemen, not only is the entire Middle East on the brink of war, not only are George Bush's numbers up, but the much-awaited Divine Miss M vehicle, *Bette*, is so awful it qualifies as aversion therapy for queers. At least we won't have to agonize each week over whether to watch CBS's *Bette* or NBC's *Titans*. The only competing aspect is the time slot.

Let's eschew the horror of politics at home and abroad for a moment for trash TV. We have always loved Miss M, and thus are quite distressed that CBS couldn't find one funny queen in Tinseltown to write for her. Get Bruce Vilanch off *Hollywood Squares* and penning her material where he belongs.

The dearth of good lines isn't *Bette*'s only problem. The premise sucks. *Bette* plays herself living her life. We don't think so. Roseanne, Bob Newhart, Norm MacDonal, D.L. Hughley, even Ellen DeGeneres had good shows named for them, but they weren't playing themselves, they were playing characters with the same first name as themselves. We don't believe *Bette* does these ridiculous things in real life, and if she does, she needs to move back to Samoa and start fresh. We thought the *Geena Davis* show was bad until we saw this. *Quelle horror!*

Meanwhile, we can't gush enough about the enthralling *Titans*. A villainess to die for, Yasmine Bleeth is the new, younger, meaner, better-dressed version of *Dynasty*'s Joan Collins, and Victoria Principal is Linda Evans' Krystel with auburn hair. The beefcake isn't bad, either. *General Hospital* alum Ingo Rademacher looks as fab in a wetsuit as he did in a business suit. There hasn't been a show this dishy since Aaron Spelling's last camp outing, *Sunset Beach*. More addictive than crack, and just as sleazy.

Rightward ho

Speaking of sleazy, we have been more appalled than usual by media coverage of the presidential campaign. We hear a lot about the so-called liberal media, but we actually watch the media, and we see an unabashed lean to the right.

The worst offender is ABC, long known as the Get Bill network. We got so used to Sam Donaldson and Cokie Roberts dissing

Clinton nonstop we weren't surprised when the vitriol transferred to Al Gore (guilt by association). But we thought Peter Jennings and Ted Koppel restricted their right-wing tendencies to trashing Israel and promoting Hamas as a nice group of folks who just happen to like blowing up buses on Jerusalem streets. Alas, Jennings and Koppel are also promoting Dubya as someone who can actually put a sentence together faster than a first-grader in a Texas school.

We don't think so. In the last debate Georgie Boy had trouble remembering where he was, let alone what his policies and platforms were. His loose command of English (his first language) is rivaled only by his poor math skills. Yet the media lets him slide every time.

Especially appalling were clips on the evening news from the excellent *Saturday Night Live* skits parodying the debates. All three networks showed bits at the top of the news. Problem is, they only showed clips of Gore portrayed by Darrell Hammond as a repetitive demagogue. None of Will Ferrell's superb styling of Bush as a total bungler.

Were this North Korea or Russia, with a state-controlled media, we would expect such one-sidedness. But totally apart from our concerns about running comedic satire as hard news, we do think the jokes should have parity. Either show both candidates skewered or neither. Since the majority of voters take their cues from TV news (researching a candidate's platform requiring actual effort), this is tantamount to stating that one candidate is flawed while the other is not. And while we are sure there is someone out there who will argue that stupid people need someone to rally around too, we'd prefer that stupid people were educated to vote smarter. And Bush ain't smarter.

In addition, he's a liar. Oh excuse us, we meant to say "mis-tater." Bush claims Gore exaggerates his achievements. But at least Gore has achievements to exaggerate, and one is knowing his opponent's record better than his opponent does. According to various media truth squads, Gore was right on each challenge to the Bush record, while Bush was wrong on his own record.

And in summation, may we

add that Jim Lehrer is the absolute worst moderator since television was invented. His dull questions were superseded only by his dreary delivery. This may fly on PBS, where William Buckley is considered a spitfire, but not on networks in prime time. His presentation helped make the debates what they were — disaster without the adrenaline rush.

Here she comes

Speaking of adrenaline rush, we have never seen a more exciting Miss America pageant than this year's event, which may sound like damning with faint praise, but isn't. Not only were most of the women actually pretty, many were smart as well. We admit to a little frisson when the top three finalists were all women of color. Though we believe Miss California,

Carolyn Ng (the first Asian to represent the state), a biochemist who graduated first in her class from Stanford and a fabulous pianist, should have won (we think she lost points with the judges because she had the most hideous swimsuit we ever saw), we were pleased to see Angela Perez-Barroquio, a teacher, superb dancer and the first Asian to represent Hawaii (terrible, yet true) win. First runner-up was Miss Louisiana, an African-American who graduated first in her law school class.

Only a handful of Asian and Latino contestants have made it to the pageant, and though several Miss Americas have been black, Perez-Barroquio is the first Asian to secure the title. This year, five of the 10 finalists were women of color, another pageant first. And all the finalists were smart and accomplished scholastically. (The three top finalists stated unequivocally that they entered the pageant for the big scholarship money.)

It's a signal change for a pageant once predicated solely on physical beauty and that elusive trait, character. This year, the pageant looked representative of real American women. Who knows, maybe next year they'll usher in the first lesbian Miss America. (We can dream...)

Speaking of queers, there's lots of random queer talk in various shows this season — almost like we're just another patch of the social fabric. The quite good *Dead-line* talks queer, as does the excellent *Gideon's Crossing*, as does *Ti-*

tans. This week's *West Wing* placed Martin Sheen's President Bartlet in a scathing attack on a Dr. Laura-alike at a press conference for talk-show hosts. As usual, terrific writing on the part of Aaron Sorkin and team. Which does make us wonder why the straight writers are doing a better job presenting queers than queers are.

The season premiere of *Law & Order: Special Victims Unit* caused us a little nervousness, though. Career pedophile gets murdered by victim, who gets off. No actual mention of queer = pedophile, but the subtext wasn't far off. We'd like less pedophilia and more rape cases. Especially since rape is the most common violent crime in the US. We think a real SVU would address that.

VCR alerts: Friday, Oct. 27 on ABC's *All My Children*, Erica Kane's daughter Bianca comes out, which will make her the only lesbian on daytime.

Nov. 5 premieres the *X-Files* in David Duchovny's final season. Fans of *Blair Witch* should catch *Freakylinks* before it gets the ax; though a good show, the numbers are so low it may not make it through November sweeps. If you haven't tuned in to ABC's *Gideon's Crossing*, you're missing the best acting on TV. Switch over to ABC

after *West Wing*. Andre Braugher simmers with a fine supporting cast, which includes Ruben Blades. It's the most ethnically diverse show on network TV.

Though *Will & Grace* remains the most hilarious show on TV, for sheer campiness nothing could have surpassed Martha Stewart's preparation for Halloween. We adored her mummified heads for Halloween treats (not to mention her lesson on mummification). We also love how she has at least two queens a week on her show (this week, making the perfect autumn jellies). Her Halloween makeover as the spiderwoman was something to see. You go, ghoul!

Finally, our favorite political joke of the week came from Bill Maher on *Politically Incorrect*. Reiterating Gore's comments to *Good Morning America* that the debates had been like *Goldilocks and the Three Bears* — the first one was too harsh, the second too soft and the third just right — Maher quipped that Bush responded, "I just started reading that book. Thanks a lot for giving away the ending!"

Ah, if only it were merely a joke. Vote November 7. Unless you're a Log Cabinette, of course. Then we'd like you to stay home. Or better still, get therapy. ▼



Lavender Tube

to represent the state), a biochemist who graduated first in her class from Stanford and a fabulous pianist, should have won (we think she lost points with the judges because she had the most hideous swimsuit we ever saw), we were pleased to see Angela Perez-Barroquio, a teacher, superb dancer and the first Asian to represent Hawaii (terrible, yet true) win. First runner-up was Miss Louisiana, an African-American who graduated first in her law school class.

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Sex, Drugs...

◀ page 41

the fairly basic issue of premarital sex. In the film, two female college roommates joust over competing sexual values. One is sexually active and enjoys her pleasures, while the other laments the absence of interesting men and wants to wait until marriage for sex. The moralism of the film is inescapable, as the bad girl is eventually forced to flee college in disgrace.

Whitaker's *For Time* or *Eternity* is arguably the most fascinating of the series, largely because it addresses a Mormon cultural issue that does not have parallel in general culture. In *For Time*, a college-aged woman battles repeatedly with her conscience. Her central conflict has to do with her boyfriend, who wants to get married outside of

temple. *For Time* was made to encourage orthodox behavior among younger Mormons.

The third Whitaker film, *Cipher in the Snow*, deals with a dispossessed young boy who mysteriously dies. After doctors cannot determine a cause of death, a teacher investigates. Unlike the prior two films, which deal with appropriate codes of behavior, *Cipher* functions like a kind of public service announcement.

On one level, these films can be viewed as campy out-takes of late 1960s and early 1970s cultural conflicts. With Jack Stevenson presenting, Yerba Buena audiences will benefit from being able to view them in the particular contexts of their production. ▼

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OUT & ABOUT



Get your body painted by Toby Jantzen and others at Venue 9's "Come as Your Art" party. See Saturday.

Calendare by Mark Mardon

Spirits welcome

Halloween is a spiritual holiday most sublime in conception. It is a time to celebrate not simply the resurrection of the dead as zombies, or other such manifestations of mischievousness, but the ever-present spirits of the dead that move stealthily among us, continually stirring us to behave in odd, unpredictable, even undignified ways, giving us quirks and tics that defy explanation, other than extraterrestrial (UFOs) or extrasensory (ghosts). Certain spirits move us to behave with surprising dignity and grace, yet in the controlled chaos of Halloween, we generally opt to ignore these gentle ghosts, preferring to party with our demons.

Dionysus, the god of ecstasy (and, some would say, debauchery), is one of the spirits at work behind the scenes to create Halloween. Though he himself was conjured out of the minds of some highly imaginative Greeks long ago, it is as though he still lives and creates havoc among us, so powerful is his aura. Of course, he's in competition with godly figures from countless other cultures, all wrangling with one another for control of our souls. This battle of the titans, including the Devil himself, is all part of our collective unconscious. On Halloween night, old fears rise up en masse as we the living undergo the ritual of purging ourselves of dead weight, allowing ourselves to relax, get good and drunk, recognize the ghosts that haunt us, and finally shake off all those nagging, tormented, tension-inducing spirits that have been clinging to us year-round.

The Halloween our culture celebrates acknowledges the importance of chaos in society and in our very beings. While our minds crave order and our bodies comfort, our beings — our spirits — rarely rest content, stirred as they are by eternal regrets and hopes for what was and what might be. We, the living, create vibes, auras, energies, and enchantments that may in time fade to near oblivion, but no human spirit ever truly dies.

The Halloween I appreciate does not bow to evil spirits, but recognizes them and every kind of spirit coursing through the universe. To acknowledge something, then let it go, is to enjoy peace of mind. Evil exists. Fear exists. Ghosts exist. The dead live among us. Let's face everything. Let's drag out the demons and burn them in effigy. Let's behave as radical faeries and leather fetishists, monsters and munchkins, engaging in orgiastic revelry filled with the fun of danger and foreboding, cursed with imagined pains and regrets, competing to see who can achieve the most outrageous indulgence. After the hangover, we'll be able to breathe a sigh of relief and go on about our business.

My Halloween sees ghosts as the free-floating, disembodied, mystical vibrations of the universe, over which we have little control. Simply as a consequence of being, we will always be haunted. Let's celebrate the fact. ▼

Fri 27

Studio 210

The dance company Transit presents "Asylum Night," a suite of five pieces that deal with the human condition. Artistic Director M. Koob, along with Keryn A. Lundgren and Jennifer A. Minore, have choreographed powerful works exploring the concept of asylum. \$10. 8pm. Thru Oct. 29. 3435 Cesar Chavez (at Valencia). Res.: 273-5890.

CCAC Institute

Small Press Traffic presents acclaimed poets K. Silem Mohammad and Aaron Shurin. Santa Cruz poet and literature professor Mohammad enacts a new and original resistance to traditional modes of grammar, if not syntax. Shurin, a force in the local queer poetry/literature/culture scene, has just produced a new book, *A Door* (Talisman House), turning his powerful voice toward the new formation of shamanic lyric. \$5. 7:30pm. Timkens Lecture Hall, California College of Arts and Crafts, 1111 Eighth St. Info: 437-3454; www.sptraffic.org

Metropolitan Community Church

"Bring a Gentle Vampire Home for Halloween," the release party for *Mother Julian and the Gentle Vampire*, a novel and companion music by Jack Pantaleo. Enjoy a book reading and a concert featuring selections from the CD, with singer Cathy Thompson, Nancy Sabin Hinds on marimba, and Jack Pantaleo on harp. Free. 7:30pm. 150 Eureka St. Info: Dry Bones Press at 707-2129.

Jezebel's Joint

Absolutely Ambiguous Productions presents "The Fencibles Costume Ball," a bi dance party featuring DJs Kelli (Release; Wet) and Ethan (Friends & Family), live performances, and prizes for Best Costumes. The Fencibles Ball is the only event in the City that brings together bisexuals from all over the Bay Area. \$10 (Threesome Special: one of the three gets in free). 9pm-2am. 21 + w/D. 510 Larkin St. (at Turk). Info: 707-2876.

Foreign Cinema

Midnight show: Jill Tracy and the Malcontent Orchestra perform Tracy's compositional score "Nosferatu — A Symphony of Horrors" in accompaniment with the classic 1922 German expressionist silent film by F.W. Murnau, *Nosferatu*. 2534 Mission St. (btwn 21st & 22nd sts.). Info: 648-7600.

Build

Theater Rhubarb presents Bertolt Brecht's *Fear and Misery of the Third Reich*, rarely-done vignettes that capture the paranoia and fear of Nazi Germany and serving as a warning to all nations of the dangers of fascism. Directed by Mark Nishimura. \$10. 8pm. 483 Guerrero (btwn 16th & 17th sts.). Info: 761-0439; www.theaterrhubarb.com

SomArts Cultural Center

Ongoing exhibition (with closing party on Thursday): "Labyrinth of Cultures," a maze of interconnected rooms with installations and traditional altars by local and international artists, celebrating and exploring Day of the Dead themes, including up-to-the-minute looks at the imminent demise of the Mission District as a Latin community and artist colony. Free admission to all events. Noon-4pm Tue.-Fri.; 10am-5pm Sat. & Sun. The exhibition closes with a party on Thursday, Nov. 2, 7-10pm. 934 Brannan St. 552-2131; www.somarts.org

CCAC Institute

Opening reception: "I Live Here," organized by *The New Yorker* Illustration Editor Owen Phillips, presenting site-specific work by five emerging artists — Laurent Cilluffo, Kim DeMarco, John Ritter, marina Sagona,

and Takeshi Tadatsu — each creating an original work representing their respective hometowns of Lille, France; Providence, Rhode Island; Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; Rome, Italy; and Tokushima, Japan. Free. 7-9pm. Exhibit runs thru Dec. 16. Logan Galleries, California College of Arts and Crafts, 1111 Eighth St. (at 16th St. & Wisconsin).

Ira & Lenore S. Gershwin Theater

The Zen Hospice Project presents "Conversations on Death," a 7-month series kicking off tonight with a lecture by Michael Meade, founder/director of the Mosaic Multicultural Foundation and author of *Men and the Water of Life*. Meade invokes the wisdom of ancient cultures that view death not as enemy, but as lifelong companion. Through ritual, mytho-poetical stories and drumming, he demonstrates the importance of giving death its natural place. He will conduct a workshop on these topics all day Saturday, Oct. 28, at Fort Mason Conference Center. \$20 lecture; \$120 combined lecture/workshop. 7:30pm (Sat. workshop 9am-4pm). 2350 Turk Blvd. Info: (510) 704-4448; www.zenhospice.org

Orinda Masonic Temple, Orinda

The Daughters of the Goddess, a feminist spirituality group, present a women's ritual and spiral dance commemorating Hallowmas. This is one of the main events of the yearly cycle for the followers of earth-based religion. Open to all women. Priestessing by Lellani. Music by Jennifer Berezan; drumming by Moon Sistahs. With writer/poet Judy Grahn along with Z Budapest and dancing by Lynette (Snake's Kin Studio). Bring drums and rattles, and photos of departed loved ones for a Day of the Dead Altar. \$27 door. 9 Altarinda Rd., Orinda. Info: (925) 256-8109.

Theatre Rhinoceros

Extended run: "Naked Boys singing!" This saucy musical revue features seven actor/singers in all their stripped-down splendor. Includes such songs as "Gratuitous Nudity," "Muscle Addiction," and "Nothing but the Radio On." Directed by F. Allen



Heather Abbot performs in Brecht's *Fear and Misery of the Third Reich* at Build. See Friday.

Sawyer; choreographed by Tom Segal. Music direction by Joe Collins. \$25-\$30. 8pm (5pm & 8pm Sat.; 3pm & 7pm Sun.). 2926 16th St. 433-9500; www.tickets.com

The EndUp

Big Booty Productions presents "Fag Fridays," welcoming special guest DJ Fernando Arias from LA to help spin the crowd along with resident DJs Ruben Mancias, Blackstone and Rolo. A totally queer experience at one of the most popular and enduring venues in town. Doors open 10pm. 401 6th St. (at Harrison St.). 21 + w/D. Info: 263-4850; www.fagfridays.com

Sat 28

ATA Gallery

Other Cinema kicks off a two-week Halloween party with Al Adamson's amazingly incoherent *Psycho A-Go-Go* — AKA "Fiend with the Synthetic Brain" and "Blood of Ghastly Horror" — a 1965/1971 Z-movie featuring John Carradine, Tommy Kirk, Regina Carrol, and music by the Vendells. Opening the evening is an early 1960s b/w kinescope, Walter Cronkite's UFO: *Friend or Foe?* Plus an excerpt from the Mask in 3-D, clips from four different "Godzilla" movies, *The Gorgon* on S8 sound, and loads of free candy, cookies and cordials. Come in costume! \$5. 8pm. 992 Valencia St. 824-3890.

Miraloma Clubhouse

"Halloween Party for Asians, Pacific Islanders and Their Admirers," featuring prizes for scariest, sexiest and original costume, a 50-50 drawing, hot food, no-host bar and dancing to club music supplied by Julio Sosa Productions, with DJ Jack Rojo from N-Touch. Pacific Friends, founded in 1984, is the oldest gay social organization in the US for Asians, Pacific Islanders and their friends. \$14 admission. 6-11pm. Corner of O'Shaughnessy and Del Vale (MUNI Bus #44 stops nearby; plenty of on-site parking). Info: Stan at 647-5566 or Skip at 221-7642; surf www.pacificfriends.org

Palace Hotel

Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra holds its 20th annual gala fundraiser, "An Evening at the Winter Palace." Caviar, champagne and vodka accentuate the opulent world of the tsars, captured in the exquisite environs of the Palace Hotel's Garden Court. \$200 per person (\$200-\$500 for tables of 10). Info: 252-1288.

Holy Innocents Episcopal Church

"Spirits, Spells, and Siren Songs," a



UMO Ensemble's "Buffoons" romp up a storm in *El Dorado* at Theater Artaud. See Tuesday.

Halloween concert of music from opera and art song featuring magic, sorcery, witches, fairies and fortune telling. Music by Bizet, Dvorak, Humperdinck (*Hansel and Gretel*), Liszt, Purcell (*Dido and Aeneas*), Saint Saëns, Verdi (*Il Trovatore*; *Macbeth*) and Wolf. Featuring Elfrieda Lange-mann and Mitzie Kay Weiner, sopranos, Katherine McKee and Heidi Waterman, mezzo-sopranos, Shelley Lynn Johnson, actress, Marcie Stapp, piano, and Julia Haug Colvig, flute. \$10-\$15 suggested donation. 7:30pm. Repeats Sunday, Oct. 29, 7:30pm at St. Francis Lutheran Church, 152 Church St. at Market.

Venue 9

"Come As Your Art," a Halloween happening for those who dare to bare body and soul. Guests are encouraged to strip to the bare minimum and be transformed into art by a bevy of body painters, including Toby Jantzen, Catherine Merrill, Ira Fabricant, Chris Hobbins, and Waylon Bacon, or come in costume. Black light environment. Live music by Tango #9 and others, plus DJ dancing. With Landini Dance Co., Karen Goldstein, The Body Cartographers, CaLiCo Dance Co. and others. \$9-\$99 (NOTAFLÖF). 11pm-2am (preceded at 8pm by Pacaducuh Mining Co.'s production of *Hot & Throbbing* by playwright Paula Vogel; show attendees get into the party for free). 252 Ninth St. (btwn Folsom & Howard). 289-2000; www.ftloose.org

699 Market St.

Grand opening/Halloween party: "Romp Room," the Bay Area's only Saturday night 18+ party for gay boys and girls and their friends. Happens 4th Saturday of every month. Featuring progressive house sounds by DJs Blackstone (Faith/MB5) and Joseph Lee (Braindrops/Electric Play-ground). \$15. 9pm-2am. 699 Market St. (at 3rd St.; basement of the Hearst Bldg.).

Sun 29

St. Gregory Nyssen Church

The SF Early Music Society presents the renowned Early Music ensembles The Whole Noyse and Sex Chordæ Consort in "Venetian Music for a New Century." Renaissance brass and violas da gamba combine to create some of the glorious music of northern Italy from 400 years ago. \$22 (\$19 members/seniors). 5:30pm. Info: (510) 528-1725.

Make Out Room

Magnetic Motorworks presents a CD-release party featuring two outstanding local musicians, Victor Krumpen-acher (*Bittersweet*) and Allison Faith Levy (*The Fog Show*). 8pm. 2225 22nd St. (at Mission). Info: Magnetic-Motorworks.com

1015 Folsom St.

Gus presents a special "Mass" Halloween party featuring hot men T-dancing to the epic trance circuit sounds of Aftershock DJ Phil B. \$20 adv.; \$30 door. Starts at 6pm sharp (early arrival strongly encouraged). Tix at Uncrover, Body, and All American Boy. Info: www.guspre-sents.com

Mon 30

Piaf's

QComedy.com presents a haunting "Gay Comedy Showcase," hosted by Page Hurwitz, plus Dan Rothenberg, Erin Souza, Amma, Mary C. Matthews, Bridget Schwartz, and more. \$5. 8pm. 1686 Market St. (at Gough). Info: 541-5610.

Booksmith

Reading and book signing with David Sedaris (*Me Talk Pretty One Day*) and Bernard Cooper (*Guess Again*). A rare joint appearance by these two remarkable authors. Free. 7pm. 1644 Haight St. 863-8688; www.booksmith.com

Tue 31

Theater Artaud

"El Dorado," created and performed by Umo Ensemble in the style of European "Buffoon Theater." Directed by Janet McAlpin. In *El Dorado*, a clutch of Buffoons — outcasts who mock humanity's follies and obsession with power — focus their energies on the Conquistador's quest for the legendary Kingdom of Gold in the Americas. \$17 & \$20 (first 30 people in costume get in free). 8pm Thru 11/5. 450 Florida St. 621-7797.

Café Arguello

Nene wear and Café Arguello present an evening of good food and fashion. The two Latino owned businesses promote endeavors that contribute to the Latino/a Queer emerging art scene in SF. Live DJ and tapes. 8-10pm. 1499 Valencia St. (at 26th St.). Info/RSVP: 864-0966.

The Stud

The scariest Trannies always show up at Trannyshack, so all you spooks and goblins should feel right at home. Heklina is the demoness who casts her bewitching spell over the hapless boys who fall into her clutches, along with co-hostess Portia 666 plus guest starlets Kennedy, Johnny Kat, Fatima, Pippi Lovestocking, Vinsantos, and Nikki Star. It's lewd, it's rude — don't be a prude or a hollow weenie! Wear your wickedest outfit. Behave as wickedly as you like. Let Heklina know we're sorry she and Miss Chocolate didn't fall overboard on their recent ferry outing! \$7 in costume; \$10 with boring clothes. 10pm-3am (show at midnight). 21+ w/ID. 922-6201.

Liquid

"Taboo" holds its first annual Halloween soiree, with maestro DJ David Harness spinning house, garage, and classics. \$4 cover after 10pm (doors open 9pm). 21+ w/ID. 2925 16th St. (at South Van Ness).

Wed 1

Alcazar Theater

Opening night: "The Vagina Monologues," in which Eve Ensler gives voice to a chorus of lusty, outrageous, poignant, brave, and thoroughly human stories. Based on interviews with a diverse group of women, the

play explores the humor, power, pain, wisdom, outrage, mystery and excitement hidden in vaginas. Directed by Joe Mantello. \$30-\$45. Tue.-Sun. 8pm (8:30pm Fri.; 5pm & 8:30pm Sat.; 3pm & 7pm Sun.). Thru Dec. 3. 650 Geary St. Tix from Theatre on the Square Box Office, 450 Post St., or phone 433-9500 or BASS.

Thu 2

Church of the Advent

An annual service of Solemn Vespers of the Dead and Solemn Mass of Requiem will be celebrated for friends, lovers, spouses, relatives and all who have died from AIDS and other causes. The setting sung will be the American premiere of *Missa pro Defunctis* by the Portuguese Renaissance composer Duarte Lôbo. Church of the Advent is an Episcopal Church that affirms that every being, without distinction, is created in the image of God, and has a full and equal claim to the love and care of the Church. Reception follows. This is an especially moving event for members of the LGBT community who have lost loved ones. 6pm. 261 Fell St. (btwn Franklin & Gough). Info: 431-0454.

Metropolitan Community Church

The Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence, Inc. present "Resurrection Bingo!" Featuring "A Salute to the Republicans!" In addition to cash prizes, door prizes, and always unpredictable entertainment, the Sisters want to "salute the party that has done so much for queer causes!" Enjoy a once-only performance of the "Dance of the Republican Housewives!" Win \$50 in the "Dress Like A Republican" contest. Proceeds go to neighborhood nonprofits. Doors open 7pm. 150 Eureka St. Info: FLY-WOLF.

Precita Eyes Mural Arts & Visitors Center

"Death and Rebirth," a Day of the Dead celebration in the heart of the Mission. The studio will be transformed into an elaborate environment to recognize and remember murals, muralists, and their loved ones who have passed on. Special tribute to Dream, a pioneer of the "Graffiti Art" movement. With refreshments and live music. Bring offerings to share. Free. 7pm-midnight. 2981 24th St. (btwn Harrison & Alabama). 285-2287.

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This winter in leather

by Mister Marcus

If you thought the first three quarters of this year were busy with leather conferences, contests and special events, going into the end of year promises to be just as bountiful if you're one of those who travels the circuit for all these leather gatherings. A lot of worthy efforts were out there and I only wish ALL of you could participate. Schedule conflicts, rising airfares and other factors could undermine the best intentions, but we all try to be present, supportive and generous when more often than not, they are fund raising projects.

Here's a rundown of events you might want to explore in the coming months. By no means complete, this list contains events whose producers are "press conscious" and make an effort to get the word out.

Cumming attractions

This coming Saturday, October 28 at Rumors in Hayward (22554 Main St.), the **Alameda County Leather Corps** celebrates another anniversary, with no-host cocktails at 1800 and a dinner at 1900. Awards presentations and introduction of new officers will be made. Congratulations!

Also this Saturday, if you're in New York, you might want to check out the "genuine" **Master Auction at the L.U.R.E.** Doors open at 2000; expect to pay an entry fee after 2200. For details, call (732) 897-1835.

In Scranton, Pennsylvania, on the weekend of November 3-5, that cute Ralph Wood steps aside for a successor at the NEPA Leather Weekend. Most of the action will be at Silhouettes Lounge, with the Anthracite Ball on Friday at Diva Theatre. The judges are Al Santora, Mary E. Boyd, David Labriola, Derrick Rojas and Ralph Wood.

The **Ms. San Diego Leather** contest at the Hole in San Diego happens on Saturday, November 4. Jo Blas passes her hometown sash to a successor. She went won the IMSL in July.

On the weekend of November 9-12, Chris Chaput steps aside from his **Mr. Palm Springs**

Leather 1999 title and sashes his successor on Saturday night. The meet & greet starts it off on Friday, with the contest on Saturday and the victory brunch on Sunday.

In Dallas, Dean Walradt's **"Master's Retreat"** for doms, mistresses and daddies includes a "high leather" dinner on Saturday night at the Inquisition Dallas dungeon, followed by a dungeon party in a 5,000+ sq. ft. dungeon. Lots of events are on tap for the \$100 fee for a Dom and a sub (extra subs are \$15 each), and beverages and snacks are available throughout the sessions. For more info, click on: www.leathernetwork.com/masters.

Bazaar

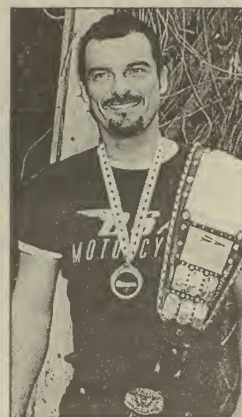
At the Russian River, in Guerneville, leather weekend takes place, with the first ever **Mr. North Coast Leather 2000**; they've added a Ms. North Coast Leather contest too, among many other events. I'll tell you more about this one next week.

In Chicago, it's **Rubber Blowout Weekend** at the world-famous Cell Block when Mr. International Leather 2000 will be chosen. That "Ton of Sarcasm" Chris will MC. For more info, www.cellblock-chicago.com/html/rubber/html.

In Atlanta, also this weekend, the LA&M, NCSF and LLC gather for a reception and weekend outreach — "a historical gathering" (their words) with the big Kahunas of leatherdom gathering to expound on their goals. It all happens at the Westin Peachtree Plaza. Need more info? Email to rbrown@ncsfreedom.org or surf at <http://www.creatingchange.org>. (Do you remember when leather/SM/BD was just a lifestyle we all enjoyed without all this organized non-sexual stuff? Actions speak louder than words!)

In Ottawa, the Ottawa Knights stage their **Mr. Ottawa-Hull Leather** weekend and contest. Howard Hao, he of Peking, China that made the big splash at IML last May, steps aside to sash his successor. Lots of the leather holy cows will be there for this one.

International Mister Leather Mike Taylor steps aside in Cincinnati on the weekend of November 17-18. He'll sashes a successor



Toronto Leatherman 1999 eStevan de Castro passes his sash to a successor in Toronto after a successful year with the title. The Thanksgiving contest takes place on Saturday, November 25.

there and then at the **Tri-State Leather Contest**. No further details were available at my deadline, but you can call them at (513) 281-7340 or email mrmvl@aol.com.

One of the best leather contest weekends anywhere is the **Toronto Leatherman** contest, taking place in beautiful Toronto the weekend of November 23-26. MLT, Inc., headed this year by Duncan MacLachlan, promises a splendid leather weekend as the hunky eStevan de Castro passes his sash to a worthy successor. You can roast the divine eStevan on Thursday night, meet and greet contestants and judges on Friday night, and participate in the contest on Saturday night, with a huge disco party afterward to recharge your energies, and a victory brunch on Sunday to recharge your batteries. For more info, click on: www.mrlt.com/.

Also, in Washington, DC, the DC-Eagle celebrates yet another anniversary and the **Mr. DC Eagle Contest** when Gary Vandeventer steps aside for a successor. Remember, it's always a fun time at the DC Eagle.

The **Centaurus MC Leather Weekend** in Washington, DC Weekend happens just after the turn of the 21st century, on Janu-

next page ►

EVENTURES IN LEATHER

Thursday, October 26

SMMILE presents checks to this year's beneficiaries tonight at Harvey's at 1900. Thanks to the SMMILE Board of Directors and especially to Paul Lester who ends his long, fruitful tenure at the helm of one of the world's biggest leather events.

Halloween costume party at Daddy's at 2100, with Donna Sachet hosting. First prize \$50, and \$25 for second prize in the costume competition.

Saturday, October 28

Alameda Co. Leather Corps anniversary party at Rumors in Hayward, 1800-2100. No-host cocktails at 1800; dinner at 1900.

Also in NY, MAsT-NY hosts a genuine "Master" Auction at the L.U.R.E. (409 West 13th St). Doors open at 2000; free until 2200. For more info, email: Mast_nyc@hotmail.com.

Don't forget to set your clocks back one hour before retiring tonight!

Sunday, October 29

San Franciscans MC beer/soda bust at the Eagle, for \$8, from 1500-1800. The usual cruising, boozing and schmoozing.

Also, in their first joint effort, Leather Daddy Keith Truitt and Daddy's Boy Bob Dern host a \$7 beer/soda bust at Daddy's, from 1600-2000, to

benefit Positive Resources.

Wednesday, November 1

Leathermen's Discussion Group, 1930 at Club Eros, free. Subject: Living the Leather Lifestyle 24/7/365, with Ross & Ross moderating. These two really live in leather, and are not adverse in talking about codes, ethics, manners and respect.

Weekend, November 3-6

Ms. San Diego Leather competition. IMsL Jo Blas passes on her hometown title, with a meet-and-greet on Friday, the contest on Saturday night at The Hole, and a victory brunch on Sunday morning.

Grand Opening of Trax on Haight St. with three new owners: Gordon Boe, Kevin Angell and Mark Wilson. They hope to revitalize the gay and lesbian presence on this once and forever more a world-renowned street. Lots of drink specials, theme nights and other shenanigans as dreamed up by owners. Check it out!

Weekend, November 8-11

In New York, GMSMA's Leatherfest 2000 at the Les/Gay Community Service Center (1 Little West 12th St), with all sorts of workshops, demos and leather/SM fun. Thom Saporita really knows how to throw a party!

PORN

Double your pleasure

by John F. Karr

If you recall what the combined bloot of *Star! Lost Horizons*, and *Mame* did to the musical genre in Hollywood, you may be fearful about the recent craze for double-length porno. Well, relax. The porn industry is singing a strong tune. If long, these two-partners have for the most part been vital. Still, I think they're less a burst of creativity than the result of a strong competition between porn companies. And that's the backstage story, of the child surpassing the father; in this case, two sons of Falcon forging unique identities for their own companies, and showing an ingenuity and craft that can eclipse the father.

There's really nothing better afforded by the length Jocks Studios has given *Convictions*, but there's certainly more of the company's hallmarks—great-looking guys, a patented sex that's sleek and shiny whether Arcadian or kinky, and a typically muddled story. The plot concerns a sham sex seminar where the gullible participants drink an untested serum. It's presented in such simplistic terms it sounds like one of W.S. Gilbert's enchanted philtres, but it's supposed to reduce sexual inhibitions and help a person realize their convictions. Well, silly, a beer will do that. And so will Ecstasy, but the uncredited author hasn't the language, and the credited director, Chi Chi LaRue, hasn't the narrative technique to draw more than a passing allusion to such a potentially powerful subject.

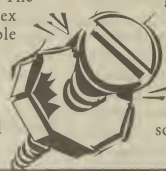
The seminar and its Horny Potion are laboriously set up, initially with several long paragraphs of a title card. These haven't been used much since silent movies, which unlike porn was a medium that expected its audience to read. But porn is for feelers, not thinkers, and anyway, I'd rather be shown the plot than read about it.

Regardless, the garbled script yields some of life's lessons as various sexual relations between men are depicted. And these are unfailingly rousing. I'm an especial fan of the sparkling cherub Nino Bacci, who's given two delectable scenes in which to disport his effervescent boner. We've also got boyslut Tommy Lord getting royally banged by Blake Harper, and cunning Marcus Iron, darily featured in back-to-back scenes, first as a plunger top and then as a



Brett Michaels in *Convictions*

lust bottom. Too bad one of his partners is the pretty but impassively faced Lane Fuller: I'd show some enthusiasm if I were on the receiving end of Mr. Iron. Perky butch-tyke Dylan Reece gets it good from a creamy-skinned, robust rammer named Brett Michaels, and Jason Branch appears in a rough-house dungeon scene to dildo and fist Joe Serrano.



Karnal Knowledge

Convictions' two

parts, available separately, haven't allowed for longer scenes, but for more scenes. They have been well edited, albeit in the usual Falcon fashion, which irritatingly insists on cross-cutting scenes, and moving on rather than savoring. One less scene would have allowed us time to dawdle with the guys; I certainly wanted to. And although it's thematically viable, the fisting scene departs startlingly in texture from mainstream to extreme sex; are the needs of differing tastes met within the abrupt changes of a single movie?

Rough-hewn

Strangely enough, Jason Branch leads another such out-of-step scene in Titan Studio's *Heat*, which is, otherwise, a milestone of a movie. In a forward-looking move, director Bruce Cam conceived *Heat* for DVD, and devotes its two-hour-and-40-minute length to a mere four scenes. Each one is fully realized, expertly photographed and transferred to VHS with superb warmth and clarity, and beautifully scored with memorable music. The men are a handsome, masculine bunch who

match the rough-hewn desert settings, but the scenery, though magnificent, never predominates over the sex.

The leisurely pace of *Heat* loosens our sense of time. Without being rushed from incident to incident, we can luxuriate in sensuous foreplay and prolonged lovemaking. Beneath the blazing sun, there's a threeway atop a four-runner, followed by a heated lovebout at a shaded oasis. There's a romantic yet lurid tryst beside a rocky outcropping in a river wash, bathed by crackling firelight. And all this with only a single line of dialogue—take that, Plot!

Then someone felt it was time for a change, and the film's final scene brings us Jason Branch, Lance Gear and two friends having some rough sex. You can tell right away that it's rough because they spit on each other. Slambang as it is, the scene violates the sacred realm of the desert that's been so beautifully evoked, especially when the guys fuck—however ferociously—on a crinkly black plastic dropcloth. They also piss all over each other, Jason letting forth tsunamiic horse-streams of piss. Gees, I've gone as far as Las Vegas for the fabled Dancing Waters, and I could have stayed right here in town. The piss slams into Lance Gear's mouth and up Nick Nicaste's asshole, and though the sequence isn't long, it's quite a hosedown (and is available only in mail order and DVD editions).

Hole-punching

The rough stuff finale of *Heat* leads us into the hellion world of Hot House, where we find in *Heads or Tails* a double-length extravaganza of extreme sex. Company head Steven Scarborough got just what he asked for from directors Chris Ward and J.D. Slater: *Heads or Tails* has lots of suave fisting, but it's the most dildo movie ever. And it doesn't fuck around. There's no plot, and only the most spartan set. Just some preppy guys into big dildos and wide fists, followed by some rough daddies into the same.

Guys who like this kind of hole-punching and stuffing will find it a most brimming and focused video. I must plug (ahem) Jackson Price's striking self-servicing, and lovers Scott and Jeff, who are the kind of muscular, grizzled dudes you see in Marlboro ads. They're kinda like Marine sergeants playing together. And smooth playboy Mike Vista bouncing on a dildo fed him by that groovy Lance Gear, as the pair kiss hungrily: Wow. It's hot, pas-

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Mister Marcus

◀ previous page

ary 12-15. This popular leather weekend event is \$95 until December 1 (of this century); after that, it's \$115. The Washington Plaza hotel is sold out already, but you can still find rooms in satellite hotels close by. Need more info? Phone 202-385-1010 or email to mal@centaurmc.org.

Pantheon of Leather annual awards ceremony in New Orleans takes place the weekend of February 16-18. Check in The Leather Journal for details or email to: tljandcuir@aol.com. Nominations are open now and the people voting on the nominees are the people who won last year!

The new **Mr. and Ms. South Plains Leather** contest happens

in Dallas, Texas on the weekend of March 2-4. Details are not yet complete.

The **Mr. San Francisco Leather 2001** contest at takes place at Club Townsend on Friday, March 9. Glennon Sutter and Bob Brunson co-chair this one for the new year and the new millennium. Lance Gear steps aside and is out there beating the bushes (and a few butts, I might add) for contestants.

In Baltimore the weekend of March 16-17, it's the **Maryland Drummer and Drummer Boy** competition; in Detroit, it's the **Michigan Drummer & Drummer Boy** contests and **Ms. Detroit Leather** (who will compete at the new Ms. World Leather competition).

The world-famous Bike Stop produces the **Mr. and Ms. Philadelphia Leather** competi-

tion on the weekend weekend of March 24-25. Mark Cady and JoAnn Wadsworth will pass the sash to worthy successors and Jimmy has a lot of surprises planned this time around.

Many worthy events will happen in the months ahead, and you'll be the first to know about them as we head in to Spring and Summer 2001. Stay tuned to this column.

Lance Gear's sore rear

Finally, a belated "Happy Birthday!" to Mr. SF Leather Lance Gear who was only 30 yrs. old on Friday, October 13. They had to use a lot of make-up on Lance's butt when he reported in for a video shoot the next day!

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Bouldrey, the magician

by Deborah Peifer

There are writers I enjoy, writers I admire, writers whose talent I envy. Some writers are all three and more, and one of them is Brian Bouldrey. His first novel, *The Genius of Desire*, is the quintessential tale of coming of age. Bouldrey's essays combine wit and style and erudition in ways that are a pleasure to read. That they also have me thinking about them days later is an added plus. In his latest novel, *Love, the Magician* (Harrington Park,



\$14.95), Bouldrey takes his skill as a teller of tales to a whole new level, at once practical and metaphysical, involving magic, religion, love, betrayal, and day-to-day cares. I'm talking life and death, the really big stuff, and what living means, and Bouldrey tackles these topics with breathtaking élan.

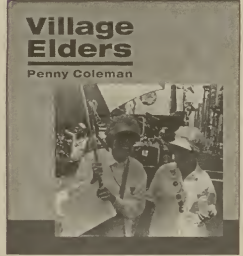
Tristan is returning to Arizona for the first time since his lover's funeral four years before. He wants to see his lover's family, to whom he had been close, to visit his lover's grave, and to find out what, if anything, he can hope for in his own life. Life without Joe has been almost unbearable, and his great fear is that perhaps continuing suffering is all that his future holds. The family has, alas, effectively canonized Joe, and the

first thing that Tristan must face is that going forward without Joe will necessarily mean going on without his family. In an attempt to look for things deeper and more ethereal, Tristan decides to attend the days-long Easter celebration of the Yaqui Indians, hoping to find in their traditions and rituals some spiritual solace.

Bouldrey combines the ceremonies with family meals, family pets, everyday lives and always, memories of his beloved, skillfully weaving an astonishingly rich and readable tapestry, where each thread not only supports but also challenges the whole. His characters are absolutely, even painfully credible, and their interactions tell us as much about ourselves as they do about them. *Love, the Magician* is a stunning tale of loss and the possibility, if only dimly suggested, of redemption. It is a gift to anyone who reads for the pleasure of words combined elegantly on the page. For those of us who like to add thinking and feeling to the mix, *Love, the Magician* is a treasure.

Elders are doin' it for themselves

I love old faces, and not only because mine is rapidly heading into that territory. To see a face ripe with the evidence of a life fully lived is a great joy. *Village Elders* by Penny Coleman (Universi-



ty of Illinois Press, \$24.95) is a collection of portraits of gender outlaws who made their courageous and principled stands when it was considerably more dangerous to do so than it is now. The village in the title is Greenwich, because, as Coleman explains, "my subjects are New Yorkers, and New York's Greenwich Village has been

an actual or symbolic home to many of them." Long before the Castro was a gay Mecca, the Village was a place where confused and questioning queers could find themselves.

Village Elders is much more than a collection of stunning photographs. Each picture is accompanied by a brief biography, and these life tales remind us with clarity, pain, and humor that being in the life was not "a lifestyle choice." Don't think, though, that these elders live in the past. Gerry, at age 92, wonders how, if she has to go into a nursing home, she can smuggle in her vibrator. Stormé decked a cop at Stonewall; now 78, she acts as a bodyguard at lesbian bars. Donald, 80, discourses at length about monogamy, which he explains, "has nothing to do with us." *Village Elders* is a wonderful reminder of our history, a delight to read and relish.

In her Foreword to *Still Doing It: Women & Men Over 60 Write About Their Sexuality* (edited by Joani Blank; Down There Press, \$12.50), Dr. Eleanor "Ranger" Hamilton reports: "When I was a student, training to become a mar-



riage counselor, I asked a lovely old lady in her late 60s, "When does sexual desire stop?" Her immediate response was, "I'll let you know."

Editor Joani Blank collects stories by sexagenarians (and older, much older) that celebrate hot and horny sex. If the writers collected in this anthology are to be believed — and given the vividness of their prose, I have no reason not to — the correct answer to Hamilton's question is, "After death." Sexuality is a part of us all throughout our lives, and after-60 sex may be the hottest of all. If you're thinking that getting older means giving up Eros, read this book.

Book Festival redux

The Book Council and *Mother Jones* magazine are collaborating to revive the San Francisco Bay Area Book Festival, on hiatus this year after a 10-year run. To that end, "Independent Voices," a benefit for the Festival, takes place at Fort Mason's Cowell Theatre on November 13 at 7 p.m. Appearance 52 ▶



The late Pedro Zamora and Judd Winick in San Francisco.

Pedro and Me

◀ Arts cover

powerful."

Winick's humility becomes evident as he speaks to the impact Pedro made on his life. "I am not that spiritual a person," he says. "At least, I don't think so. Everyone around me disagrees. Part of the time, I think, 'What is he saying about all this?' I don't think about, 'I'll see him one day in heaven. I'll see him some day again.' I don't really think about it that way. With me, it's usually about people, and I'm more focused on the people he can still reach. It's six years later, and I know he can still reach people."

So Winick spends his autumn traveling the country, the standard author goal of book promotion (via the usual appearances at TV

stations and bookstores) enmeshed with a youth-outreach crusade. At high schools and community centers — anywhere he can reach young people, like his audience at Horizons — he talks about AIDS prevention. And he's convinced his publisher, Henry Holt and Company, to donate books which he distributes and signs for the kids.

It's not always easy — you can't always speak about grief and loss from a detached place — but it's healing and it's right, so Winick does it. Like Pedro once did, he implores the kids to learn how to talk about sex with their friends and partners — but most importantly, he implores them to value themselves. He looks them in the eyes and he tells them the truth: "You can live with HIV, but it's easier not to. You are all too important to be HIV-positive." ▼

Piercing & Tattoo Night



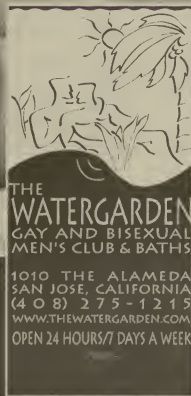
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INTERVIEW

Bruce Vilanch gets more press

On his celebrity, his 30 years with Bette Midler, and the still-closeted

by Bradley David

Answering his phone on the first ring, Bruce Vilanch cheerfully announces, "Proctology!"

Universally regarded as one of the funniest minds in Hollywood, the openly gay Vilanch has created a unique niche for himself in Tinseltown, most notably as a writer on the Academy Awards and all the other big televised award shows. At 52, he's been writing funny lines for everybody who is anybody over the last 30 years, but it wasn't until recently that he emerged from behind the scenes and became a major celebrity in his own right.

It all started two years ago, when Vilanch was hired as head writer on the new *Hollywood Squares*. His old friend Whoopi Goldberg, the show's producer and "center square," suggested to the show's creators that Vilanch should be the host.

"Their jaws sort of dropped, and they said, 'Okay...'" Vilanch remembers. "They couldn't piss her off this early in the game, so they tested me with a bunch of other hosts, and it was pretty funny because it was all these guys with big white teeth and jackets going, 'This is for the Lexus, Kevin!' And here I was... They said, 'You're a little edgy.'"

They were interested in giving Vilanch his own square. Carrying on the show's legacy of campy (if not always fully out of the closet) gay stars like Paul Lynde, Jim J. Bullock and Charles Nelson Reilly, Vilanch quickly became one of the show's biggest on-air assets, delivering hilarious quips from the square to Goldberg's immediate right.

Then as the show began its second season last year, a documentary about Vilanch called *Get Bruce!* was released by Miramax, garnering him tremendous media attention. A big hit at the 1999 Sundance Film Festival, the film had a small theatrical run, opening in New York, LA, SF and Chicago before going to video. All this spawned an Off Broadway one-man show this year and a re-

cent book entitled *Bruce!: My Adventures in the Skin Trade and Other Essays* (Tarcher/Putnam).

Palace desires

"It all happened really by accident," says Vilanch of his sudden exposure. "I say in the documentary that if I had really had this burning desire to play the Palace, I would've played the Palace. People who get to the top generally have this unquenchable desire to be number one — whether it's head of General Motors or the biggest movie star in the world — but I don't have that trait. Which sounds ironic for someone who is now doing all this publicity."

The documentary features interviews with many of the stars Vilanch has written for, including Robin Williams, Billy Crystal, Goldberg, Shirley MacLaine and, of course, Bette Midler. As an entertainment reporter at the *Chicago Tribune* some 30 years ago, Vilanch wrote a profile of Midler when she came to perform in the Windy City at the very beginning of her career. Complimenting him on the article, she asked Vilanch a question he was to hear countless times in the years to come: "You got any good lines?"

Currently acting as a consultant on Midler's new CBS sitcom *Bette*, Vilanch continues to write much of her stage material.

"I've been on pretty much all of her tours, because in addition to refining and changing the material as we go along, I also do the topical stuff for her," he says, referring to Midler's practice of infusing her concerts with local humor wherever she performs. "We do less of it now than we used to, because she's less inclined to learn it every night."

Vilanch continues to write for the major award shows, including the Tony Awards, which last year featured some memorable dialogue between co-hosts Rosie O'Donnell and Nathan Lane.

"There was a play on Broadway last season called *True West*, with two actors who switched roles every other performance, and both were nominated for Best Actor," Vilanch explains. "Rosie and Nathan were introducing that



Skin trader Bruce Vilanch

category, and Nathan said, 'We should try that — you and I could just switch roles right now.' He said, 'OK, I'll be you: My kids threw a kooshball at me and they're such cutie patooties...' He was wearing a beard for the role that he was playing on stage, and so she looked at him and said, 'How's my beard?' And he said, 'I'm fine, thanks. How are you?'"

Vilanch says he came up with the idea while in a New York cab with Lane. The two weren't sure O'Donnell would go along with it, but she proved to be a real trooper.

"She thought it was hilarious," he says. "She winks every year — she says, 'Oh, I'm going to do an-

other outing joke. I'm going to out myself again.' She never goes that far, but I keep nudging her."

Well-behaved friends

Asked if he has encouraged other friends like David Hyde Pierce and Lily Tomlin to come out, Vilanch says he doesn't really consider them closeted.

"David has never denied anything," he says. "And with Lily, you have to understand that you're talking about a 60-year-old woman. You can't ask her to behave like Melissa Etheridge."

He says most of these celebrities do little to hide their private lives.

"I mean, even Rosie has been in all these tabloids with the girlfriend, pushing the pram," he says. "David and his lover have been pictured walking their dog. It's always 'David Hyde Pierce and his guy-pal...'"

Vilanch says he *does* find it funny that O'Donnell refuses to talk about her "personal life" in interviews, while at the same time regularly discussing such intimate matters as diapering her baby on her TV show.

"To me, I just find it hysterically ironic," he says. "But on the other hand, I think that she's got some kind of role to fulfill, and when she's done fulfilling that role as a talk show goddess, she will probably shift in her direction, and you'll see more activism from her, because I think that is where her heart lies."

Vilanch says the gay community should focus its energy on real enemies like Eminem and Dr. Laura, rather than eating our own.

"Not one of these people pretends anymore to be anything else," he says, "with the exception of Kevin Spacey, who I think should be taken to task for that in this day and age, because that's almost like courting the other side. It's ridiculous. He's somebody that's legitimate to go after, but there are so many legitimate enemies that to spend time running around saying, 'Ooh, ooh, it's so bad about Rosie! It's just so bad!' — it's like, come on, you're just jealous!"

As for his future, Vilanch says his sudden fame has reached the point that he's in talks to launch his own line of T-shirts. Known for the outrageous designs that have become a big part of his unique style, he says he started exclusively wearing T-shirts 25 years ago when he moved to California.

"I discovered that you could have a nice career and never have to wear real clothing," he says.

Among his current favorites is the one he wore on a recent episode of *Politically Incorrect*: "I'm Brad Pitt."

"I have millions of favorites," he says. "I was on TV this morning, flogging the book on some local ABC station, and I wore a shirt that said 'Betty Ford Clinic Recruiter.' Lily Tomlin's favorite is 'Excuse me, but you're standing on my penis.'"

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PARTING GLANCES

Saw You On Sunday 9-15 @ 5:30pm
You: GWM, 20's, short brown hair, nice smile. Me: GWM, s&p hair, white shirt, glasses. We got off at Church Street. You went right. I waved and went left. Meet? ☎ 72408

Passport Thurs/14 Sept.
We exchanged glances and smiles on bus. You wore a dark suit and carried a goody bag. I wore a green hooded pullover. Let's clarify those glances and smiles. ☎ 72409

Mechanics Library
Muni subway, Friday evening Sept. 15. You: handsome man with goatee and beautiful eyes. Me: bow tie and beard. Discussed Agatha Christie. Please call! ☎ 72410

Mollie Stones SF Sept. 12
You: At checkout, your goatee frames & great smile. Me: in blue AIDS ride shirt, sniffing pineapples, fruit salad, perhaps? ☎ 72411

Matt, Heard You Sing At Mint
You: Asian, great smile, beautiful Spanish and French songs. Let's meet for dinner. Me: White, 6'0", professional, can't stop thinking about you. Was too shy to say hi. ☎ 72412

"Sam" You Are On My Mind!
Badlands on 9-2. After blow jobs in my car, we went to Concord and slept together. I can't stop thinking about you. Call me. ☎ 72413

Cute Asian Ballad Master 8-28
Me: was with a group at the Mint. Didn't have the chance to talk to you. 5'10", White, vol. You: about 5'8", Asian, dressed all black, glasses. Call Jeremy. ☎ 72435

SFO United Shuttle 9-10 8am
Me: gray beard, -when boarding asked if you were going to Palm Springs-you said Sacto-would like to get to know you. Let's talk. ☎ 72436

Sexy Asian On Castro 9/16
You: attractive Asian man with great eyes. Me: man in blue shirt walking with friend. We both turned around to look again. Let's meet. Call me. ☎ 72437

Kevin-Back Cov'd W/Tatts-Folsom
Doorway, late afternoon. I'm very tall, built, hairy. I was busy, asked how I'd find you. You'd find me 'cause I'm easy to spot. You didn't; my turn. Call Sailor. ☎ 72434

El Ambiente Man Sat 9/23 3pm
Bench. You: sitting with friends on bench near Laticias, beautiful smile. Me: cap and cut-off jeans. Have seen one another at Ambiente. Let's talk! ☎ 72438

Emeryville Grey Saab PNL 9-19
Followed you to work crossing the Bay Bridge driving a red pick-up. You are a cyclist, I'm a runner, maybe we can do a biathlon. ☎ 72460

Keith- Sat 10/14
Long shot, but it would make my mouth to hear from you! ☎ 72517

Harvey's Saturday Sept. 23
You: very tall almost bald, shorts, Banana Republic bag sitting next to Black friend at the bar. Me: across from you with friends standing tall muscular mustache looking at you. ☎ 72461

Castro Cala Sat. Oct. 7, 3pm
Lots of glances, smiles, small talk at checkout. Both of us Levis, older. You in front with cart. Would like to talk. ☎ 72491

Man Driving Bare-Chested
Blue Saturn, westbound on Interstate #80 near Auburn, Wed., Sept. 27. We smiled at each other. I was driving a green 2-door Mazda-MX6. Would like to meet you. S 72462

Powerhouse, After FolsomFair, 9/24
You: blonde surfer with goatee, very involved in sex pig activity in back bar area. Me: liked what I saw, felt. Second chance? ☎ 72463

Larry At YMCA Sat Sep. 30
Me: Black guy who kept staring at you while you were getting dressed. I'd do anything to have hands and tongue over you. You're so sexy! ☎ 72464

"Where Is Kitty Glamour?"
I've lost track of you! You've always been the Castro's hottest, sexiest & most talented "Drag-Queen!" Your adoring fans miss seeing you perform! ☎ 72466

Church Street Station Fri. AM 9/29
Roger, you were the darling guy telling me about your Kayaking plans. You stepped off at Powell before I could ask you out! "Single?" ☎ 72468

Gdiking Guy On Bike Van Ness 10/6
You were riding bike across street, Van Ness, I was w/ two friends, caught each other eyes, then you crashed. Sorry I did not help. Call me. ☎ 72486

37 Corbett Stop 9/29
You: goatee'd, short brown hair w/sunglasses. We were chatting when my colleague approached. Liked your handsome smiling face. Call! ☎ 72489

Malaysian Ken-Andrew
Watched sunset, said I love you, then messed up everything. I am forever sorry. All my fault, say you Hayes bus Sept. 12. You look awesome blond. Call me Andrew. ☎ 72414

Sunset Market Sat 9/23
You: Caucasian, blond, white t shirt. Me: Asian, cargo short, dark gray shirt. Can't stop thinking about your kind words of the photograph. Would like to return the compliment. ☎ 72439

Mr. Fong, Handsome Man, Tues 9/19
We said hello thru your white car window. You said "Mike" when I asked; the phone # eluded me but I dialed anyway; your smile! Please call. ☎ 72490

18th/ Castro Thurs 10/12 10pm
You: tall, Black, handsome w/2 friends? Me: short hair blue shirt with 2 friends. We cruised shamelessly. I tried to catch up. Let's meet! ☎ 72514

Fuzio Castro Sun 10/08
Me: GWM, green plaid shirt-waited for table at the same time. You: attractive great smile & eyes- seated with book to me. Let's meet. ☎ 72515

On Muni 09/12 Noonish,
Boarded at Castro. You reading newspaper. We talked about U.S. dollar becoming national currency in Central America and the proximity of dentists versus chiropractors. No time to finish, I'd like to. ☎ 72433

Mon Oct 9: Seeking Asian Man
Yellow sweater, 16/Market walking to video store. Exchanged glances, walked together. Lost my nerve to speak. Movie? Call me-please. ☎ 72516

Jim At My Place Sunday 10/1
We had hot fun, went out back together, you to smoke after (How Appropriate!), you said you'd watch for me. But I'm rarely there that early, so if you want to connect again, leave message. Would love to get to know more of you. Al, from Oakland. ☎ 72467

Rich Of Walnut Creek, Handsome
Guy with the "wicked smile!"- we met on Castro St. Fair Sun. behind the Castro Theatre during the Sundance Salon hoodown. You were drinking a Foster's Lager and I asked you where you got it. I would love to spend some time with you. Please call me! ☎ 72487

Saturday September 30, 8:00PM
We both got on the 24 Divis at 18th and Castro. You: gorgeous dark-haired man in black short-sleeve shirt. Me: white t-shirt, carrying groceries. Exchanged many looks! Wish we had gotten off together! ☎ 72465

SEEKING RELATIONSHIP

A Luv Connection At 35+
It get trickier: No 6 pak stomach, nor a bubble butt, and now poz too? Me: GWM, 135#, 5'6", avg. looks. You: In shape top w/similar stats... N/S, N/D. ☎ 72415

Sexual Craving...
Older man will submit to dominant man. Is obedient in all aspects. Edwardian sensibilities & setting. ☎ 72416

Like Nothing You've Ever Known
Rare, masculine, attractive, grounded, athletic, intelligent, a typical quality GM 38 seeks same, 35+ who's outside the scene, w/integrity, heart, humor. I don't think you exist. Prove me wrong. N/S, HIV-. ☎ 72417

Attractive 36yo WM Seeks HM Or
Middle Eastern for good times. Be attractive with a sense of humor, h/wt prop. Smoker ok. Give me a call. ☎ 72418

West Sonoma County
30ish GM any race for genuine time together & more. We are both slender, open-minded, single, healthy, somewhat introverted & attractive. N/S, GWM in medical field, 55, 6'. ☎ 72419

Daytime Play & Who Knows?
HIV+, 39, 200#, nice, attractive, seeks men 35-50 to drive crazy in & out of bed. N/drugs, n/alcohol, n/gym bodies. Looking for an honest, real, normal man. LTR? ☎ 72420

Unconventional Professional
Very bright, attractive, athletic, conversational- not glib passionate, discreet, intense, silly, tender, 160, 6', 40's, healthy HIV+, out of gay scene. You're attractive, like-minded. ☎ 72421

GWM 39 Ready 2 Go!
Easy going guy, 5'11", 185lbs, seeks 30-45yo. quality guy. Interests include music, theatre, travel & having a good time. Leave a message. ☎ 72422

GAM Seeks GWM40going Partner
Affectionate & caring GAM 5'9", 142 for mature GWM. HIV- N/S/D; open LTR. Slender/slim and bottom a plus. ☎ 72440

Sex Partner Desired
By a romantic GWM. Please be Asian, any age for long time relationship. I'm yours anytime. I'm always horny for Asian men. ☎ 72441

Burning Man Of The Heart
Tribe comes together. WM, 36, HIV+ soul of fire, celebrating life/nature. Welcomes men of heart HIV+/all races. Forming friendships, heart connections, community, sacred love, exploration freedom/self. ☎ 72470

Last Chance...
For Scorpio who wants to have the best lover in the world. GWM 40yo. wants to be with you only. Let's talk. I want you so bad, baby. ☎ 72442

Skin To Skin
Attractive easy going comfortable with self tactile 40yo GWM, 5'6", 155lbs. gm/bm healthy in-shape professional. Ub similar age/size build to beefy, honest and fun. ☎ 72443

Man Of Quality Seeks Same
Is any body looking to date a 42yr old professional man? Here I am! ISO 35-45 yr old GWM with a sense of humor and willingness to create a relationship. ☎ 72444

Fuck Buddy Wanted!
Hot, hung, masculine muscular, Big-Dick Italian top 180 masculine, in-shape fuck buddies, any race, under 45. I want someone I can fuck on a regular basis. ☎ 72469

"VA Ham Seeks California Beef!"
Beefy Cal Ripken Jr. Type: goatee, hairy, top, 40-something, 6', 180#, German-Italian, creative prof, wanted by attr, masc GBM, cocoa brown, 40, goatee, 5'11", 175#, writer, into romance. ☎ 72471

GWM, 42 Available 4 U
Me: 6'3", 200lbs, gm eyes. You: 35 to 45yo. top, 5'11" taller. Interests: romance, travel, movies, quality time together. HIV- only pls. ☎ 72472

"Gorgeous HIV- Spanish Asian"
VGL, discreet, muscular/line 29, 5'7", 150# in shape, non smoker/drinker. In military seek monogamy with handsome stable and easy going man. ☎ 72473

HIV+ Blk 5'10", 165#
Weight & height proportionate active healthy. Seeking a middle age friend. Numbers unimportant. Physical appearance is. I prefer slim to lean build body types. ☎ 72492

Now Is The Time
Attractive healthy /fit regular White guy, 5'6", 155lbs. easy going personality, professional ready for fun and romance with similar 35+y.o. masculine GBM of medium to thick build. ☎ 72493

Quiet And Conservative
GM 34, 5'9", 155lbs. not into gay scene, drugs, or smoking. ISO of LTR with a HIV- GWM under 50. Weight proportionate to height. You are honest and down to earth. ☎ 72494

Seeks Asian Male
Cute blonde student 22, gym body, cute face new 2 San Francisco. Into volleyball and cooking. 5'11", 160# smooth chest. ☎ 72495

Palo Alto GAM 42, 5'11" 190 ISO
A friend who's not buffed or well-endowed but a regular top. UB on the mid Peninsula under 50 yrs. ☎ 72496

Submissive Bottom Boy
Looking for dominant in-shape top daddy to train me for his pleasure. Daddy be 40+. Boy is 41, 145#, 5'7", GWM, tatts- waiting to serve. ☎ 72497

Seeks GWM 60 Or Over
Attractive GAM 50 professional and self employ seeks GWM for friendship possible LTR. Prefer non-smoker and clean shaven. ☎ 72498

"East Bay Black Male Wanted!"
Goodlooking WM looking to service orally. I'm 6ft, 170lbs, 35, blk, blue, stache, hairy and masculine. You should be over 35, masculine, dominant, verbal, and in-shape. ☎ 72518

Romantic & Nasty Seeking Same
37yo. hairy Italian top 6', 200#, br/br ISO beefy, hairy bottom. If you are romantic yet nasty call for some cuddling & raunch! ☎ 72519

High Minded Chat
GWM, 27, 6', 170, bb, seeking committed, spiritual, intellectual, sensitive GWM, 27-36. I like Henry James, poetry, jazz, outlaws. No dots! Maybe we could discuss our book projects. ☎ 72520

Alla That's Alright, But...
Seeking open-hearted Black men for steady companionship sex, weekend excursions, quiet pleasures. Me: GWM, 40, tall, muscular, lean, brown/blue, goatee, mostly top. Enjoy theatre, music, reading, outdoors, dance. ☎ 72521

Hot Bottom Looking 4 Asian Top
Latin, muscular, masculine 36yrs-old-158ht-160wt, u-not older 40yrs young look nice, masculine medium body. Live here in SF. I prefer Japanese, Vietnamese, or Filipino. No divas, a nice boy, boy, boy! ☎ 72522

Sr. GWM ISO Younger M.O.C.
Seeking younger Asian, Black, Hispanic, healthy, cuddly sex partner. Everything (safe) goes except penetration. All body types. I'm professional, healthy, 69yo, 5'4", 123, trim. ☎ 72523

Impossible Dream?
GBM, early 50's tall, good-looking bottom wants to meet tall White top guy who is intelligent, secure, sexy and who has integrity. ☎ 72525

BAR TALK

PERSONALS ARE FREE!

CATEGORY

- Parting Glances ☐
Seeking Relationship ☐
Seeking Adventure ☐
Lesbian ☐
Fetishes ☐
Couples ☐
Others ☐

Headline, 30 characters maximum

Write the rest of your ad here, 30 words maximum

MAIL FORM TO: BAR Talk, Bay Area Reporter, 395 Ninth Street, San Francisco, CA 94103

You must use this form to submit ads. Deadline for ads is **TUESDAY at 5 PM**, for the following week's issue. New ads run for three consecutive weeks. You will be notified by mail with information on how to leave and retrieve messages from your mailbox ad. Print clearly. No ads will be accepted without valid address, telephone number and legible text. The Bay Area Reporter reserves the right to edit ads. One ad per customer per week.

Name _____ Daytime Telephone _____
Address _____ Evening Telephone _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____

New Leather/Diaper Boy in Town
Cute, trim, GWM, 40, 5'9", HIV-, seeks LTR with health conscious, caring diverse daddy. Boy enjoys museums, Discovery Channel, long walks, Exploratorium, quality conversations, two-stepping, safe sex & kink. ☎ 72524

SEEKING ADVENTURE

Black Submissive Seeks
Top has in good shape body raunch (+) sleaze. Available evenings & some week ends. ☎ 72423

Tight Hair Butt 4 Uncut Cock
34yo, 6'3" tall, muscular swimmers build masculine, handsome, lt. brown hair/blue, hairy tight butt, hung 7.5", seeks masculine guys with uncut for oral and anal pleasure. ☎ 72424

Home Hobo!!!!
Homeless dude, sandaled feet, sun-reddened skin, real holes in jeans, looking for safe fun, together, al fresco? Tight butt from sitting on toilet. A taste of the outdoors? yes? maybe? ☎ 72425

Seeking 50+ Asian Top
GWM, 61, 6', 165#, easy to be with, good looking, balding, avg build, HIV- seeks Asian. Call and let's talk about it. ☎ 72426

I'm A Butt Banger, 47 And Hung
Seeking a masculine, mature, submissive bottom for hot quickies. Conservative appearance and moustache a must. No voicemail, work phone or beards/goatees. Serious only. ☎ 72427

North Bay Sexy Boyfriend Wanted
Wanted sexy guys White/Black to share my girl's secrets. Maybe be my part time nasty boyfriend. Bi/W/M/M discreet 5'10", 180#, 31yo attr. shaved. All night uninhibited partying. Love to pose for camera. ☎ 72428

Well-Hung Butch Bottom
Highly sexed 50 year old, GWM, HIV+, 8"cut with big head, loves to party and play with butch tops, who like an aggressive, hot, passionate butch bottom! ☎ 72429

"Want To Play?"
GWM, 30's, HIV+ bottom, seeking tops into hot man to man pleasure play. S 72445

Daddies Fuckhole!
Always hot and horny, no games-no hassles. Whip it off and call again anytime! ☎ 72474

Asian Muscle Tops Wanted
GWM 25, 6'2", 34w, 52ch, 19"arms. Me: clean cut, bright blue eyes, mild hair, HIV-. You: smooth, 18-40, workout, must be dominant top. ☎ 72446

Uncut, Hung-9, Hairy, Masc, Musc
GWM, 50, 5'9", 160, balding, mustache/goatee, versatile dad. ISO masc/musc fit man, great butt, nice cock, "nipple work" verbal, light skin, rough, tender, kiss & cuddle. Live on east coast, visiting S.F. Nov. Nude photo required, but photo get mine. I am HIV- poz/ok! ☎ 72447

SR Seeks SR Daytime Lover/Dad
60-100+, any shape, handicap, honest, serious, self-assured, healthy, clean, clean-shaven, cut, gentle, non smoking, into pecking, fondling & oral sex only. I'm 64 5'7", 128#. Compatibility rests on chemistry, not common interests. ☎ 72448

Poet Seeks Illiterate Big Cock
To teach oration skills. Learn classic Greek and Modern, French, analytical, gay playwrights enacted. Spanish romances recited. No bookworms. ☎ 72449

Looking For Hairy Top
Gay/BI wanted by slim, smooth, hairless GWM late 30's 5'8", 145# 7"cut-but/cock play open to role-play/jockstraps/kink. ☎ 72450

Hot Asian Loves Butt Play & Games
X sexy, masc, 32/5'7"/145 bubble butt loves rimming, butt-sniffing, enemas, toys, jocks & exploring all facets with your masc. 30-45 bubble butt w/cock, beard/goatee, also threesomes + San Jose. ☎ 72451

Take Erotic Pics Of Me!
If you have a digital camera and want to take nude and erotic pics of me-call. I'm 34, 6', 155lbs. HWP, attractive, 7"cut. ☎ 72452

Poz GBM Sks GWM Top
38, 165lbs, 6ft smooth, submissive. Don't be PC. Tell me how you want me to take it. ☎ 72453

Free Massage For The Naked
Soothing body work available for guys with tight bodies from 20 to early 40's. Given trim straight acting guy with talented hands. ☎ 72454

Let Me Take A Photo Of It!
Show me that pretty pink butthole, how about with my finger or tool in it? or? snap! snap! Photographer seeks young in-shape models for fun polaroids sessions. ☎ 72455

Oakland Fun
GWM, 46yrs old 6'1"-210lbs. Lives in Oakland. Would like to meet j&buddy. Cum on my face?? ☎ 72479

"Got A Hand?"
Stand out White guy (6'6") mid-40's, muscles, looks, smart, clean shaven, hung, HIV-, blind swimmer, working on ejaculation control, mutual j.o. str8 or bi ok. North Bay best. ☎ 72475

Tall Guys With Big Cocks
Handsome muscular hung Italian seeks tall guys with big cocks. Are you a versatile tall guy or a total top? I'm versatile and very oral with deep ass. ☎ 72476

Submissive Black Bottom
Seeks top dominant (+) verbal and have own place. Available eves & some week ends. ☎ 72477

On My Knees And Ready To Serve
I'm 5'8", ISO bm hair & eyes. I want to spend my vacation servicing daddy's dick. You: hung top who knows what he wants. ☎ 72478

I Want To Be Your Bitch
Butch WM 47, light brown hair, green eyes, 5'8", hvy, wants to be your bitch if you are a Black guy, cock worship, nasty talker A+. ☎ 72480

Spank Me. Cute Frat Boy 22
Needs over the knee discipline from a dominant big brother. I wear speedos, jockstraps and briefs. Castro. ☎ 72481

Sensible Sadist Sought
Me: attractive, youthful-42yo, 5'10", 150lbs. dark, hairy, goatee, foreign born, cut, affectionate. Excellent kisser. Your: dominant, around my age, HIV-, communicate, we both for intense intimacy. ☎ 72499

Crazy For Blondes
Attr. Brazilian, slim and slender 36y. 5'8", 142#. Nice big uncut cock, very clean hard & horny, looking for blonds under 38 for pumping his rose pussy. ☎ 72500

"Mature Manpussy Wanted!"
Uncut well-endowed BM needs experienced holes for serious plowings. No relationship, just intense ball draining pleasure. Black, oral expert, anoma, submissive are pluses. No jerks or pushy bottoms. ☎ 72501

Tall Attractive HIV+ GWM 45yrs
6'3", 195, bm/gm, mstch, med. hairy, romantic bottom. Sks: normal reg topman, hung + thick, hairy + nu-bi ok, affection, gr8 kisser, smoke ok, no flabbies-stout ok. ☎ 72504

Erotic Fun
White male, 53, seeks another White male, 40-60 for safe erotic fun. Prefer height between 5'11"-6'5" weight between 170-210. ☎ 72527

Dating Sucks
Busy SWM, romantic, cute, 39/6/175, athletic, HIV-neg, br/br, hairy, nice buns, 6"/cut, looking to serve attractive WM that's hung, horny, & HIV neg. Weekly at my place in SF. ☎ 72505

Need Black Bubble Butt
I am a WM, 47yo, 5'8", 135lbs. in-shape with a wild 9 inches for you. ☎ 72502

Slave Seeks Boyish Master
Me: fit 40yo, love cock worship, dog training, heavy humiliation, spanking etc. I will perform 4 you & your friend. You: young cute Asian, but not nec. ☎ 72526

"Big, Hefty, Husky, Chubby, Fat!"
GBM, 5'11", 47yo, 250lbs, versatile, adventurous, seeks full-sized men with big tits, ass, legs, & thighs for sexual pleasure, must be discreet. Big men only! ☎ 72528

Tight Hairy Butt 4 Uncut Cock
34yo, 6'3", tall, muscular swimmers build, hairy chest, handsome, masculine, lt. brown hair/blue, hairy tight butt, hung 7.5", seeks uncut guys to service. ☎ 72529

Seeking Asian Or Latino Tops
Goodlooking healthy GWM, 38yrs, 6'1", 175#, seeks similar masculine Asian or Latino top 20-35 for safe good times. ☎ 72530

Handsome Hung Italian
Super endowed 190" seeks another HIV negative extremely well hung man for oral sex. ☎ 72531

Naked On The Toilet
Fantasy scenario: straight trim guy 43 walks and finds you on the toilet, humiliates you verbally abuses you, and makes you suck. You are trim and under 42. ☎ 72532

Gang Bang My Asshole
Caucasian, shaved, bearded bear, 49, I'm on my belly waiting for ass-fucking studies to plow my ass. Cum with other studs watching! ☎ 72533

North Bay Bachelors
Social and play club for North of city Bays. (City Bear Welcome) call for info. ☎ 72503

Voicesex Roleplay Dirtytalking
Bi male loves female voice, wishing sex talk and role playing on phone from nice to naughty to nasty- your choice. Tell me all your dirty stuff secrets, confidentially. ☎ 72482

Poz GBM Sks GWM Top
38, 165lbs, 6ft, smooth, masculine bul's hairy behind closed doors. Tell me how you want me to take it. ☎ 72534

Sexy Partners Wanted
Very hot versatile 45yo, guy 5-8 160# wants tops, bottoms and in-between for regular sessions, also wants to put together small groups of in-shape men 25-50. Lean or muscular and safe only. ☎ 72506

FETISHES

Hole Punch Buddies Sought
35yo Latino, 5'11", 155lbs, slim build, mostly bottom. Seeking others into punching butt or having own hole punched. Also into large dildos/ some partying. ☎ 72430

Two Dyke Tops
Want to practice CBT! We are responsible and knowledgeable. We just don't have boyfriends! ☎ 72431

40 Yr Old Piss Top
Needs bim stud to guzzle recycled beer; in shape masc. ub2; no hard drugs-poppers cool; I'm hairy, HWP; no raunch; tourists-hotels welcome. ☎ 72432

Sacramento Enemate
Trim, discreet, 40's WM ISO another male who also enjoys sensual give and take. I can travel. ☎ 72456

Sadist Master Top Needed
By bodybuilder slave/bottom who has been trained not to expect sexual gratification without pain. Slave will respond promptly to any inquiry by an interested Sadist/Master/Top. ☎ 72457

ISO S/M FF Tops
I am 5'2", 120 HIV- shaved bottom in Sacramento, ISO S/M FF, hung tops with big toys for safe sex age, race looks unimportant, let's talk. ☎ 72458

Milkman Seeks A Good Gum-job
If you're a "tooth-less tiger" and can deep-throat a big plunger head, you might get more than you thought you would. 6', 42, 170lbs. of laid-back man. Long chewing sessions a plus! ☎ 72459

Diaper Boy ISO A Daddy
Me: 38, 6'1, 195#, brown hair, hzl eyes. You fun loving daddy who likes a diaper boy also have fun like spanking and humiliation. ☎ 72483

Seeking Nipple Workout Buddy
I'm a 45 yr old stocky 190#, serious nipple-pig with huge erect nipples, br/bm, salt & pepper goatee, tats & piercings, smoker, looking for super masc, muscular dominant nip pig daddy ready for serious wk outs with growth in mind, please call- smoker + + +. S 72484

Ball Players Club
Once a month play parties for men into nuts. Call for info. ☎ 72507

Barfeet/Sheer Socks Fetish
Do you get turned on by looking at barefeet or sheer socks on business men wearing slip on shoes? Do you like the idea of touching each other's feet? ☎ 72508

Buttsniffer&EnemaMateInSanJose
GWM 32/5'7"/150# ISO bearded, blonde men btw 30-45yo. sexy, masculine, with bubblebutt, wild and loving the same: buttsniffing, give/take enemas, socks, jocks, rimming & toys. ☎ 72509

"Tickle Me!"
GWM, 6'4", 170lbs seeks full body tickling. Men of color preferred. ☎ 72510

I'll Be Your Breakfast
Hung and horny 47 year old Oakland man needs an oral expert to take care of my 5'30am hard-ons. Please, serious calls only. ☎ 72511

Slender Ticklish Asian?
SWM ISO Asian man to be tied, tickled & teased. It can be slow and sensual or wild and playful! My fingers, feathers and tongue are ready. ☎ 72535

COUPLES

"Three Is Twice As Hot!"
I'm looking for couples "into" 3-ways. Me: 45, 5'10", 150#, swimmers build, HIV-. You: 30-50, in-shape, any race or height. Leave message. ☎ 72536

OTHERS

Prepared To Be Served...
I am a 59 year old male mistress with sexy apartment. I will grovel if you wish. Whatever you want. ☎ 72485

Gym Partner Wanted-Beginner
At Gold's on 9th, for morning workout. Let's get in shape together! ☎ 72512

Workout/Sparring Partner Wntd 5'8"
140lbs. wrestler/fighter, preparing for first pro fight in January, ISO partners to lift, wrestler, box, fight. Serious, non-sexual workouts. Let's rumble! ☎ 72513

Into Latex Sex
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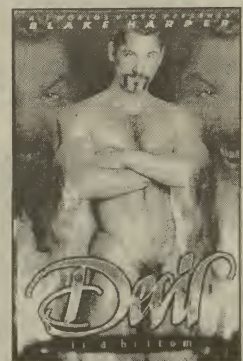
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Fear and loathing in Los Angeles

by Robert Julian

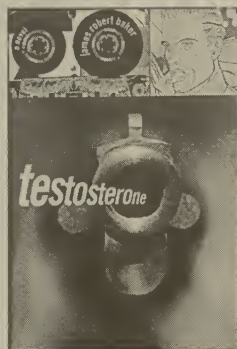
Testosterone by James Robert Baker; Alyson, \$22.95

The late James Robert Baker's posthumously published novel *Testosterone* is a manic first-person monologue that rips across the page at warp speed. The protagonist, Dean Seagrave, records a series of audiotapes as he drives around Los Angeles, looking for the boyfriend who jilted him. The novel, designed as a transcript of these tapes, describes Dean's descent into madness as he chases the memory of his ill-fated affair with the mysterious Pablo Ortega.

In the beginning of the novel, Baker's protagonist presents the classic psychological profile of the co-dependent queer man who inadvertently falls into an obsessive relationship (i.e., heavy sex addiction) with a hot Latino research

physician. But as the story unfolds, the depth of Dean's obsession for Pablo emerges through a complex series of revelations that lead to the book's tragic and explosive conclusion.

Any reader who goes along for this roller coaster ride will enter the seamy side of LA's queer subculture. Baker delves into male hookers, ritual sex, orgies, tea-rooms, torture, mutilation, drug addiction, and murder. But throughout the journey, the author provides some piercing insight into queer culture, and more than a few caustic and funny moments. Pablo, the object of Dean's obsession, becomes more than he seems. The predictable fixation on Pablo's big, brown, uncut dick gradually escalates to the level of a satanic spell, cast by a skilled practitioner. And as Dean learns more about the object of his affection, he snorts more speed to prepare himself for the search-and-destroy mission he adopts.



Testosterone is a kick in the head. Wild, weird, hip, and scary, it will take you places you've never been, and leave you hoping you don't have to go back again. Although there are a few continuity problems with the story, as it jumps back and forth in time, James Robert Baker's last novel is a tough, take-no-prisoners tribute to the author's skill as an observer of life and a storyteller. ▼

Out There

◀ page 38

booksellers we took a walking tour through North Beach and North Point, ending up at the San Remo Hotel for dinner. Wiley is the author of *The National Trust Guide to San Francisco*, and he was able to point out not only Bernard Maybeck-designed buildings and other significant architecture, but also important sites from SF's General Strike and labor history.

Last week, Wiley gave a lecture at the library called "Architecture and the Rise and Fall of San Francisco as a Corporate Headquarters City." Wiley ranged over two generations of downtown construction and discussed the corresponding decline of locally-owned businesses with a distinctive San Francisco look.

Globalization marches on, and we are left to tally the casualties.

On a distinctly non-corporate front, the *House of Haigh* hosted their traditional Friday the 13th party for the first occurrence of that scary day in the new millennium (well, not really, but we'll get up on our soapbox in 2001). Spotted at the soirée: celebrated

Pomeranian "Pinky" Peron, working the room in the arms of her handler Dennis. We hear the diminutive Pinky is being talked up as the big holiday cover of *American Bitch* magazine.

Chef Girl-ardee

Out There was living high on the hog during lunch at Boulevard last week, nibbling our Maine Lobster and Sage Canyon Ranch Squab at a table full of discriminating foodies. The occasion was the release of the 2001 *Zagat Survey*, and the Food Squad was at the restaurant on Steuart St. because Boulevard had nabbed the annual award as SF diners' favorite eatery.

Blvd. chef Nancy Oakes accepted her laurels graciously, saying, "Every year, you get ready to be bumped aside." OT knows, oh how we know!

Oakes' triumph was a nice rejoinder to the received opinion that all great chefs are men. And she brought along her assistant chef to share in the honor, saying, "Behind every great woman, there is probably another, greater woman." Oh-ho, as the joke from *Christopher Guest's* laff-riot *Best in Show* goes, looks like Boulevard has two mommies! ▼

Warren Sonbert

◀ page 41

makes them unique in experimental film. His rejection of middlebrow taste — "the hollow cupidity and superficiality of middle-class ideals," as he once said — did not prevent him from being expansive in rendering a world he often stood outside of.

Not all of the films follow the kaleidoscopic pattern of *Friendly Witness*. The rarely screened *Tenth Legion* (1967), perhaps named in tribute to his idol Douglas Sirk's *The First Legion*, focuses on sex, using Rembrandt-like lighting to render the bliss of bodies intertwined. Another of his masters, Hitchcock (specifically, *Marnie*), is the subject of a homage in his claustrophobic reduction of the Hollywood weepie, *A Woman's Touch* (1983).

Sonbert was also something of a prodigy, only 19 when he made *Amphetamine* (1966), with Wendy

Appel. This 10-minute black-and-white ode to sex and drugs echoes the work of Warhol and Morrissey in luring the viewer into a self-consciously decadent, queer closed space. A booted boy is seen shooting up in methodical detail, and he and another boy passionately make out. The film makes no reference to the outside world, and its sheer insularity is rendered through the drone of an endlessly repeated "Where Did Our Love Go?" from a scratchy LP. The sense of transgressive pleasure is intense here, but also ephemeral; its brief running time evokes a sense of life as a temporary state. Like Sonbert's short life, it's a diversion that will end as surely — and quickly — as the secret pleasures it celebrates. ▼

Friendly Witnesses: The Worlds of Warren Sonbert screens in eight programs Oct. 26-Dec. 17 at SFMOMA, 151 3rd St. Films are free with museum admission.

Porn

◀ page 47

sionate dildo-fucking man love.

While Slater is responsible for the theatrical lighting, the movie as a whole is stamped with Ward's identity. He's sure of himself, and that's the kind of movies he makes. Each one is a simpler, more concentrated experience. Ward's surprisingly restrained, unusual in pornography, in which excess is usually the foundation. But Ward leaves the excess to his performers' behavior. He simply honors the sexual act, leaves it with emotion, and leaves everything else out. His is an unadorned cinema of extreme sexuality, and I like it.

In truth, none of these three movies needed their extra length.

Book Report

◀ page 48

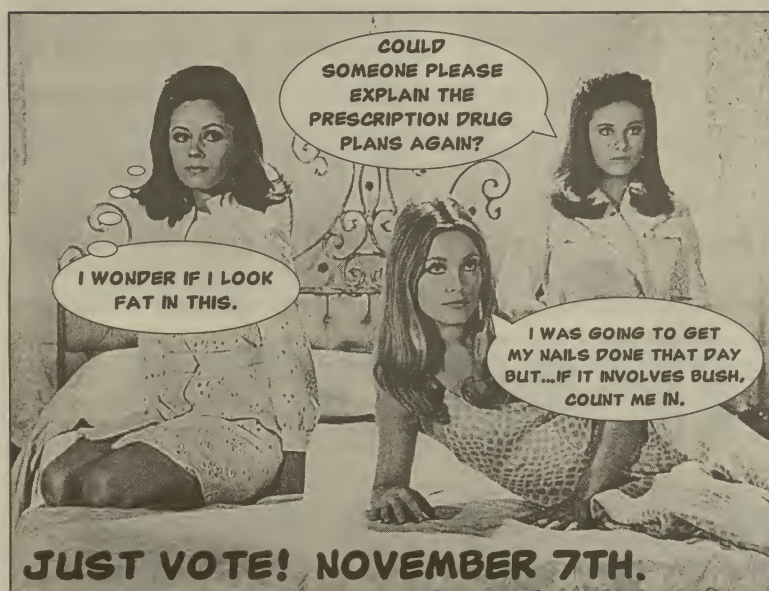
ances by such glorious literati as Alice Walker (*The Color Purple*) and Adam Hochschild (*King Leopold's Ghost*), as well as a Word for Word performance of Dorothy Parker's short story "The Standard of Living" make November 13 a night of readerly delights. Don't

But the results were boner all the way, and not unenlightening about a director's, or a company's artistic identity. LaRue shows he's more of a ringmaster than a director, appreciably professional while lacking a personal profile. Cam is state of tomorrow's art. And Ward is an artist, with a unique vision of sexuality and the technique with which to express it.

Falcon has loosened the traditional formula, to no obvious purpose and to no particular new benefit. Embracing the new medium of DVD, Titan has re-invented the formula, evolving a more natural depiction of the sex act; and Hot House has clarified the formula with a meticulously applied vision that is singular in its focus. Jocksstudios.com, 800-227-3717; Titanmedia.com; Hothouse.com. ▼

miss this chance to help bring back the Festival. Tickets for the benefit are \$25, available through TicketWeb.com. Call 487-4550 for more information. ▼

If you have gossip, inquiries or information of a literary nature, send them to DeborahPeifer@msn.com, or via snail mail to the B.A.R.



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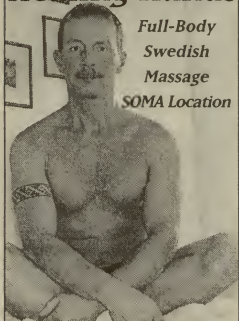
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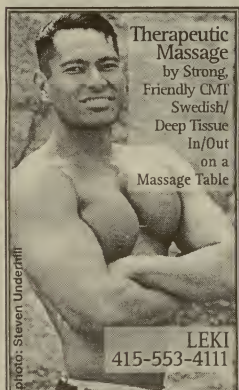
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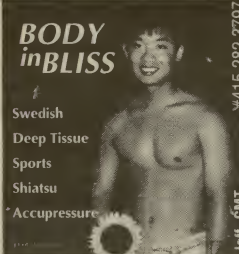


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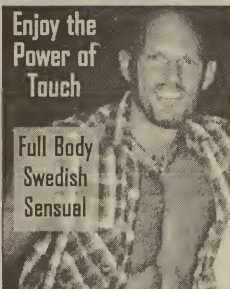
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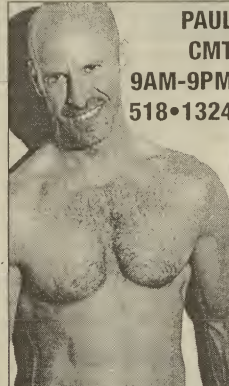
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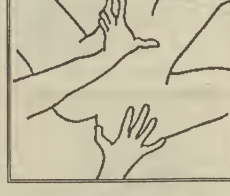
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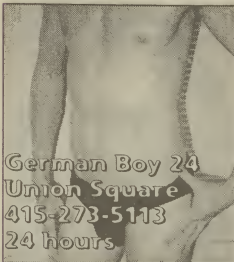
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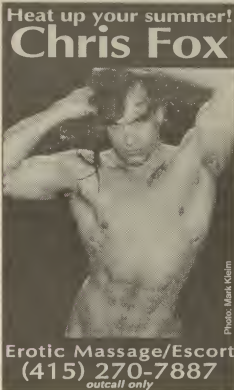
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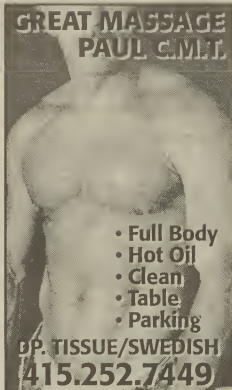
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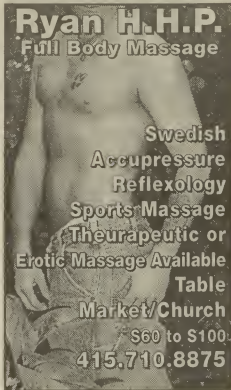
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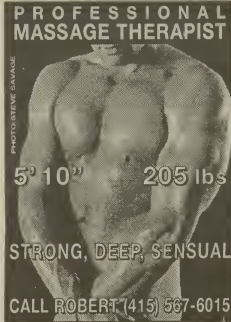
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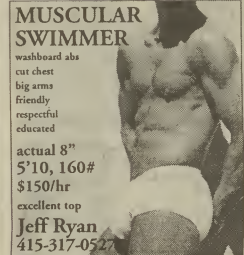
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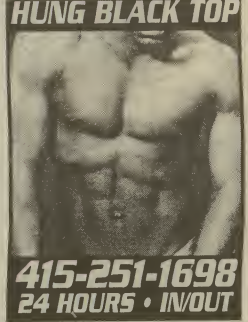
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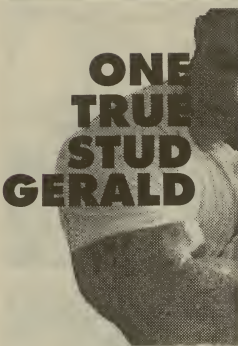
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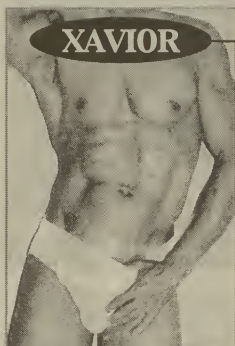
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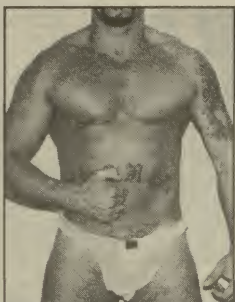
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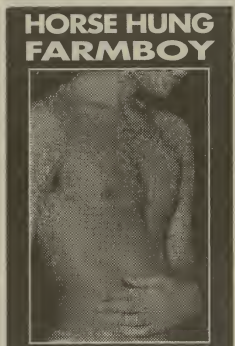
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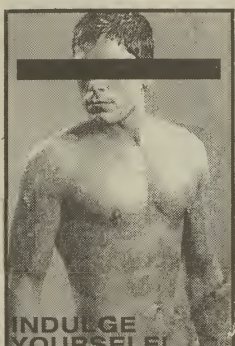
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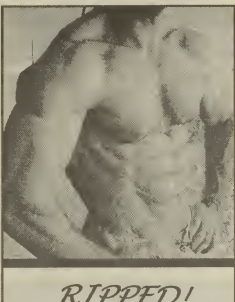
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REDHEADED PORNSTAR
5'9", 165lbs 9x6
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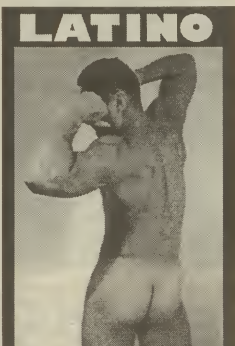
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voicemail/pager 415-370-4341 E43

HOT-NASTY DUDE
Very muscular, masculine guy
uninhibited & intense shvhead
hung 9" top & botm. VM 207-7636 E44

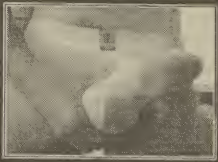
PERSONALS

MODEL/ ESCORTS

S/M SENSUALITY

-long, & slow- my specialty.
6'2", 185, strong, gymtoned
master into all aspects &
degrees of leatherplay.
S/M, B&D, FF, WS, raunch.
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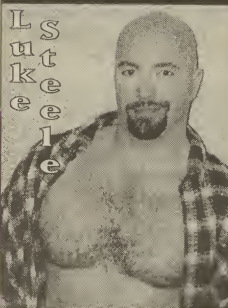
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E44

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MIDWESTERN FRAT BOY!

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or 408-348-4425. Justin!

E46

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Lean, athletic body-top/vers.
Kevin pg# 605-5328 In/out 24/7

E46

JRLHOTSTUD4U

24 GWM Cleancut 6' Brn Hzl
32wst slim fit Masculine 7" cut
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Versatile IN or OUT
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E52

Handsome, sexy Italian stud 6'-
180lbs 8" versatile in/out
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E44

VERY HANDSOME LATINO

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E44

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Call Master Tony (415) 674-3638

E41

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27yo, 6ft, 160#, very good-looking
top, smooth, uncult seeks worthy
subs to service my needs. In/out
Antonio 415-225-8275

E44

New Boy In Town

5'11", 145, blond, brown
eyes look for fun time very open
minded and fun 210 0698

E44

5'10", 160 very fit body, nice tan
9.5 & VERY THICK!!!

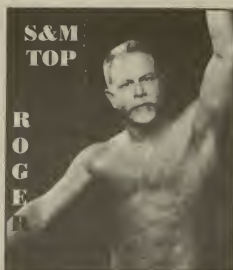
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E44

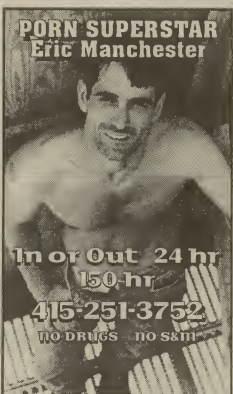
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E43



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24, swimmer build w/thick 8" cock
Into cool people & having fun!!
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E43

Asian bottom for Asian tops and
White tops, over 55yo. Work out only
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in (650) area. Will travel.

E44

Hot straight skateboarder and
BMX-biker needs help shooting
HIS HUGE SCHLONG!!
Outcalls 415-289-6843 voicemail
STR8-R SK8TR

E45

Hot 22yr old model tight firm bodycall
Eric 415 313 8948

E43

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CALENDAR MAN
Ripped solid lean muscled 43
6ft 180 44ch 30w 16a 8 close
cropped beard hairy chest
aggressive affectionate muscle
bottom out David 415 551-1795

E43

24 145 lbs trim build versatile
SXY PUNK BOY
N2 Diff scenes/hot/fun/\$125 out
Bobby pager 251 1643

E44

** I CANT HELP IT **
** I luv to f---k **
Ex-Brit boy, 23y, wild, horny, 8.5"
smooth top. SF/out. 251-5964

E43

WILD BUCKIN STALLION
Hung horny Blk Beauty!
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E43

Looking for a hottie?
Masculine boy 5'11", 160
dark & hair/eyes tan sexy
Fred 415 251-5985 out.

E43

9X6 UNCUT TOP
28yo 6'3", 180
sexy, sweet & fun
Out only
Daniel 790-0079

E44

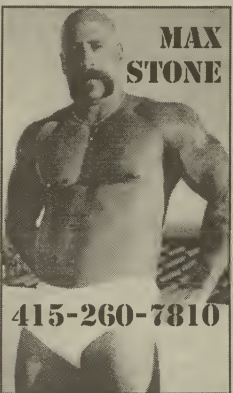
PARTY GUY "9"
(415) 775-4771 24-hours

E43

Dominant Leatherman
Bondage, SM, WS, CBT, F/F, Fetish, Slave Training.
40yo, 6'1", 195#, Brown Hair, flat top, Blue Eyes, mustache, 7" Uncut.

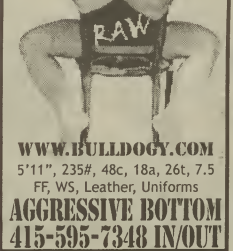


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WM, well bilt, 8", nds well bilt men
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Location. Call 4 Apptmt. 626-1168

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E2-D1

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E1B

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now call 752-0971

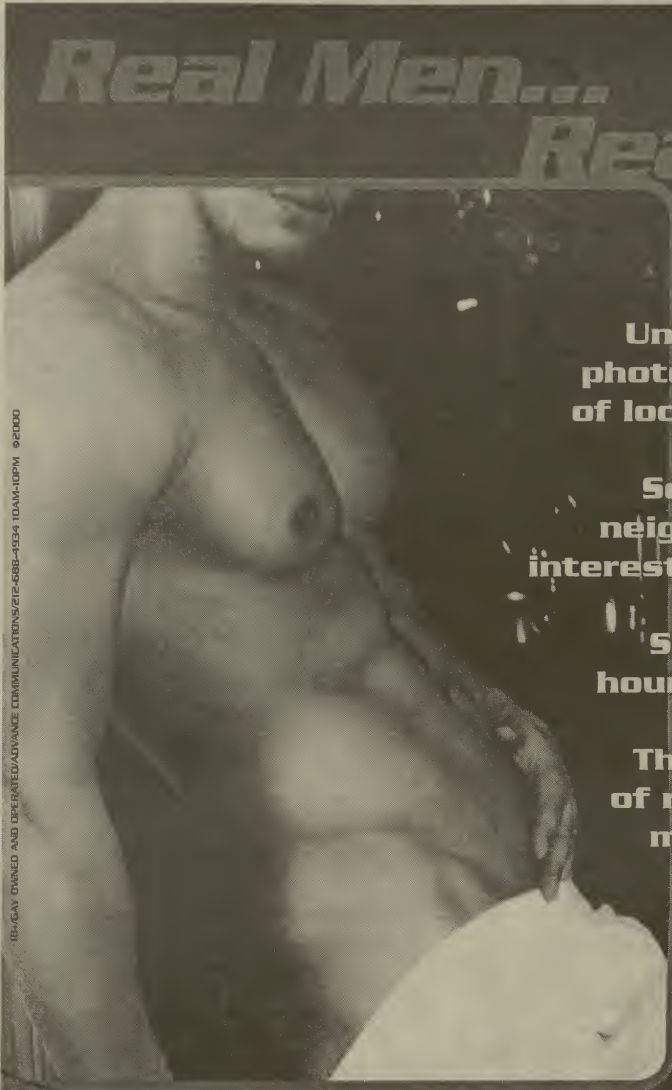
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E45

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